LIFE GROUP APPLICATION QUESTIONS Good News from the Start—***Genesis Series***

These questions are for the November 1, 2026, message, "The Gift of Reconciliation" Please read the sermon passage (Genesis 42:1-9, 45:1-9) out loud.

Passage Outline

When God remembers His promises, remember . . .

1. The story of Genesis 42-45 (review the message for this summary).
2. What is reconciliation?
    a) The removal of the offense (forgiveness). This is the objective part (requires obedience).
    b) The restoration of relationship (access). This is the subjective part (requires wisdom).
3. Learning reconciliation
    a) The school of reconciliation:
        1) Joseph learned it in his 14-year jail sentence.
            a) He had only God's promise (Gen37:1-9) and God's presence (Gen 39:21).
            b) God meets us in long seasons of adversity with His promises and His presence.
        2) Joseph really believed, "God sent me" (45:5, 7, 8).
    b) The source of strength to be reconciled (God's kingdom—now).
        1) Joseph has learned to treasure the forgiveness and reconciliation of God's grace.
        2) If God has forgiven us in Jesus Christ, we must forgive one another (Matt 18:21-35).
            a) All Christians must forgive (Matt 6:14-15).
            b) Only Christians can forgive (because Christ has forgiven us).
    c) The borders of reconciliation.
        1) God shows us the ideal version: he can remove the offense and restore us!
        2) We must be wise. Not all relationships should be restored (Rom 12:18).
4. Bringing reconciliation home for Thanksgiving (45:1-9).
    a) Ready to make yourself known (1-3).
    b) Using your influence to bring peace (4-5).
    c) Remembering that God is sovereign (6-7).
    d) Remembering that you are responsible (7-9).

<u>Life Group Discussion Questions</u>

1. Based on #1, above: When you reflect on the story of Joseph (a dad who hasn't changed, brothers who are still denying and deceiving, and God graciously keeping His promises after 20 years), what stands out to you?

2. Based on #2, above: The objective side of reconciliation is forgiveness, the "removal of the offense." This requires a decision to obey God. Is there any person in your life that you have not forgiven? Anyone who still requires a daily choice? Any you refuse to forgive? How can we help?

3. Based on #2, above: In some cases, "the restoration of relationship" requires great wisdom. We can forgive without trusting, we can forgive and still desire or require consequences. What kinds of things is God teaching you as you navigate wisdom in "restoring relationships"?

4. Based on #3, above: We learn a lot about God's grace when we are in extended adversity and have only God's promises and God's presence to hang on to. Talk about how this is true in your life.

5. Based on #4: above: How does Jospeh help you in your prayerful preparations to bring a happy heart and the presence of Jesus home with you for Thanksgiving / Christmas.