

# GOD IN THIS MOMENT

## Part 8: The Power of Forgiveness - Genesis 45

### The Power of Forgiveness

Drop the <b>MASK</b>	<i>vs. 1–3</i>
Look for <b>GOD'S HAND</b>	<i>vs. 4–8</i>
Close the <b>DISTANCE</b>	<i>vs. 9–15</i>
God Went <b>AHEAD</b>	<i>vs. 16–20</i>
Grace <b>RESTORES</b>	<i>vs. 25–28</i>

Additional notes and take-a-ways:

## Life Application Questions – May 31, 2026

**Genesis 45:5** *Now do not be grieved or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.*

### DISCOVER

1. What is forgiveness? Is there always sin involved if forgiveness is needed?
2. As if talking to an atheist, how would you explain the power of forgiveness? How does forgiveness impact the one at fault? And the one who is forgiving? Often in a conflict, more than one party is at fault. Who should initiate forgiveness, and why? What might reconciliation look like if both parties have sinned?
3. Why should God forgive you? Why does God forgive you? Explain what is right and/or wrong about the saying "forgive and forget". Explain what is right and/or wrong about the saying "you need to forgive yourself".
4. How should we speak with a Christ believing friend if they say, "I will never forgive them"?

### EXPLORE Read Genesis 45

1. In what ways would the story of Joseph have been different if God's providence was not at work? Why do you believe that God was pleased with Joseph's heart and actions in chapter 45? Since we are made in the image of God, what should we expect the impact to be when we reconcile and forgive?
2. Joseph's story shows that God can turn evil intentions into good outcomes (compare with Genesis 50:20). Where in your life or in the world do you need to pray for and believe in this kind of redemption?
3. Pharaoh's kindness and provision for Joseph's family (vv. 16-20) show how God can use unexpected people as instruments of blessing. Have you seen this in your life? How can you be more open to it?
4. Joseph said, "It was not you who sent me here, but God" (Genesis 45:8). How does this perspective help you reframe past betrayals or injustices you've experienced?

### EXPERIENCE

1. Is there someone in your life whose repentance you have witnessed but whose forgiveness you are still withholding? What is keeping you from closing that distance?
2. What is one painful experience you have been interpreting through the lens of what someone did to you — and what would it look like to reframe it by asking, "Where was God's hand in this?"
3. Joseph's grace was believable because his pursuit of reconciliation was patient and costly. Is the grace you offer others credible — or have you skipped the hard work that makes forgiveness trustworthy?
4. Where in your life do you need to stop trying to prepare the way and trust that God has already gone ahead of you?

### PRAY

*Abba Father, our hearts must kneel before You as we seek forgiveness of our countless sins. And may it be that we forgive "as far as east is from west" those that sin against. Even when we sin, may Your providence abound and Your love be proclaimed. You are good when there is nothing good in us. In Jesus name. Amen.*