



## Hurt and Healing

Nov 23, 2025

This powerful message takes us deep into the story of Joseph and his brothers, revealing profound truths about family brokenness and divine restoration. We're reminded that every family carries hurt—whether biological or church family—and Joseph's journey from the pit to the palace illustrates that healing is not instantaneous but a process requiring time, faith, and forgiveness. The sermon unpacks Genesis 37-50, showing how jealousy, betrayal, and violence tore Joseph's family apart, yet God orchestrated every painful step to preserve life and fulfill His promises. What stands out is Joseph's radical choice to forgive rather than seek revenge, recognizing God's sovereign hand even in his brothers' cruelty. The puzzle activity beautifully symbolizes how we're all pieces of a larger picture—incomplete alone but purposeful together. We learn that forgiveness doesn't erase the past but opens doors for God to create something new. The key insight resonates deeply: what God can do through a heart full of forgiveness is far greater than anything others can do through hurt. This message challenges us to examine who we need to forgive and where we need God's restoration, assuring us that if He restored Joseph's shattered family, He can restore ours too.

01.

Joseph's brothers' jealousy led them to sell him into slavery, yet he later chose forgiveness over revenge. What does this teach us about the power of forgiveness to break cycles of hurt in our own families?

03.

Pastor Heather stated that 'God doesn't take us back, He moves us forward and creates something new.' How does this perspective change the way we approach restoration in broken relationships?

05.

The sermon mentions that forgiveness can lead to personal restoration even when the relationship cannot be restored. What does forgiveness look like when reconciliation with the other person is impossible?

07.

The puzzle piece illustration showed that we're part of a bigger picture and belong to a community. How does understanding our place in God's larger story help us navigate personal hurt and family conflict?

09.

Joseph's family was 'born into conflict' with jealousy, favoritism, and dysfunction from the beginning. How does knowing that even biblical families were messy give you hope for your own family situation?

02.

The sermon emphasizes that 'healing takes time' and Joseph spent 13 years going from the pit to the palace. How can we remain faithful to God during long seasons of waiting when healing seems delayed?

04.

Joseph was able to see God's purpose in his pain, saying 'you intended harm to me, but God intended it all for good.' How can we develop this perspective when we're in the midst of suffering?

06.

Joseph found success whether he was in Potiphar's house, prison, or the palace because he learned to depend on God in every season. How can we cultivate this same dependence on God regardless of our circumstances?

08.

Romans 5 tells us that problems and trials help develop endurance, character, and hope. Can you identify a difficult season in your life that God used to strengthen your character in ways you couldn't have anticipated?

10.

The sermon emphasizes that 'what God can do through a heart full of forgiveness is far greater than anything others can do through hurt.' What might God want to do in your life or family that unforgiveness is currently blocking?

### Remember...

"If you feel brokenhearted or crushed this morning, know that God is close to your hurting heart. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted. He rescues those whose spirits are crushed."