



GENE

THE FOUNDATION OF EVERYTHING

S I S

J O S

GOD HAS A PLAN

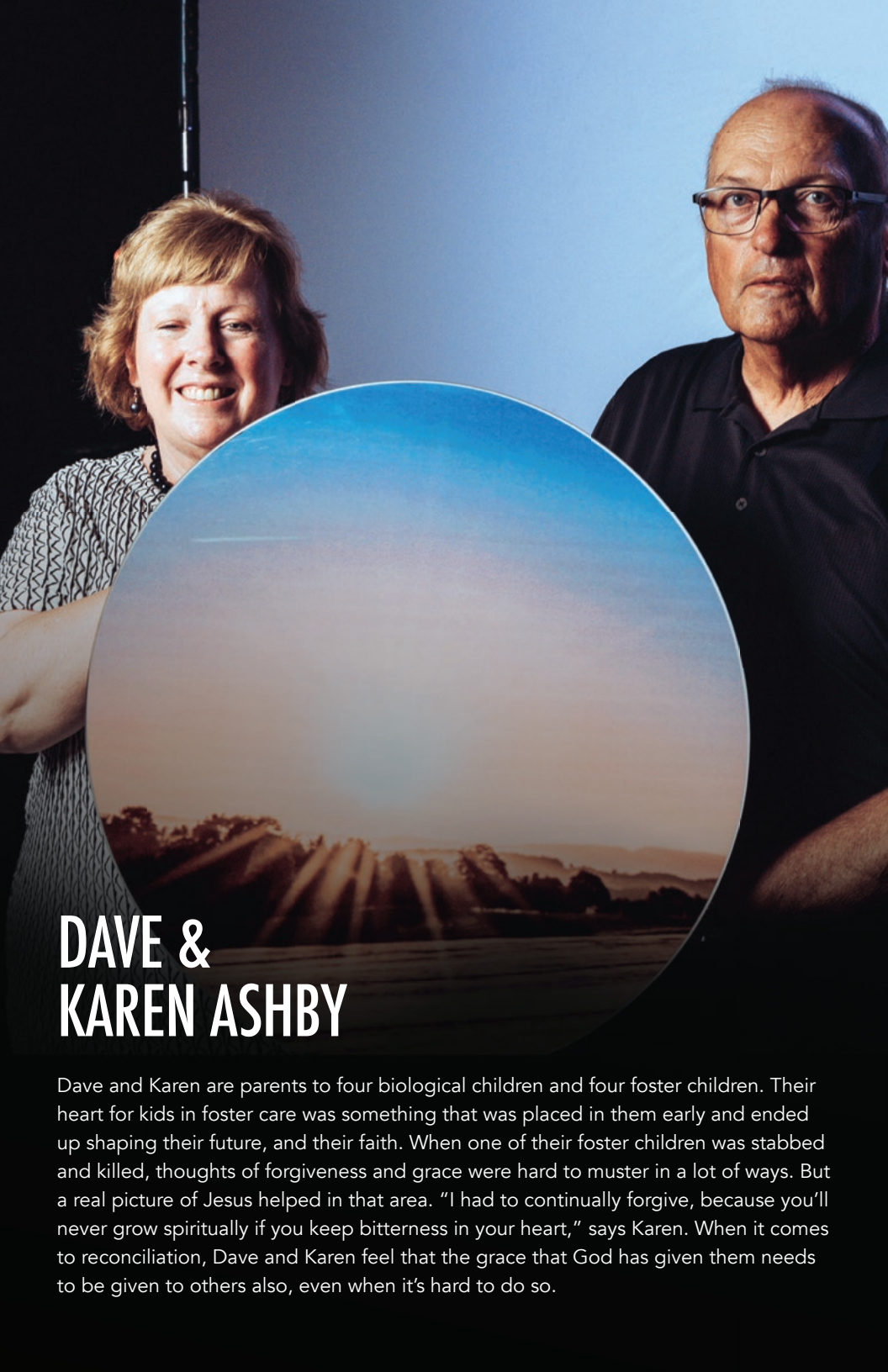
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**BROOKSIDE
CHURCH**

SESSION 9





DAVE & KAREN ASHBY

Dave and Karen are parents to four biological children and four foster children. Their heart for kids in foster care was something that was placed in them early and ended up shaping their future, and their faith. When one of their foster children was stabbed and killed, thoughts of forgiveness and grace were hard to muster in a lot of ways. But a real picture of Jesus helped in that area. "I had to continually forgive, because you'll never grow spiritually if you keep bitterness in your heart," says Karen. When it comes to reconciliation, Dave and Karen feel that the grace that God has given them needs to be given to others also, even when it's hard to do so.

SESSION #9

(QUESTIONS WRITTEN BY DAVID BRANSON)

READ GENESIS 42-45

In Genesis 42-45, Joseph comes face to face with his brothers who betrayed him more than a decade earlier. He has both the opportunity and the authority to punish them in any way he would want. And yet rather than exacting revenge, after a series of wise tests Joseph ends up revealing himself to them and even stating how God had sent him to Egypt (see 45:7) in an emotional scene (see 45:12-15). Joseph's relationship with God enables him to show radical forgiveness to those who had hurt him deeply. If Joseph can reconcile with his brothers who had hurt him deeply, we need to be willing to extend a radical reconciliation to others ourselves.

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever been betrayed or dishonored by another that made you feel you could never forgive them? How has God's grace aided you in intentionally forgiving others?

2. Read Matthew 18:21-22. What are the stumbling blocks that discourage us from radical forgiveness and reconciliation?

3. Compare these chapters to the story of Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32. How did Joseph react differently in Genesis 45 than the older brother in Luke 15:28? How was his response similar to the Father in Luke 15?

4. “Silver” is used twenty times in Genesis 42-45. Compare and contrast the use of silver/money from Genesis 37 and Genesis 42-45.

5. What emotions do you think Joseph experienced in Genesis 42:7? How would you respond if you were in a similar situation?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How did Joseph's dreams in Genesis 37:5-11 prepare him for the arrival of his brothers and his responsibilities in Egypt?
2. How did Joseph's relationship with God develop in Genesis 39-41 to set up this moment with his family?
3. A central theme of Genesis is the providence of the one true God. How is that theme emphasized in the orchestration of Joseph's power and ability to save his family?
4. Think of a time when forgiveness was especially hard for you. How did extending forgiveness transform you spiritually and bring you closer to Christ?
5. What else stood out to you from the sermon on this passage, or what other questions or take-aways do you have that haven't already been brought up? Discuss them now as a group.

