

Discussion Questions

INTRODUCTION

Do you need a new template for family, friendships, and relationships in general? Let's start this series BIG by dealing with past hurts in light of God's present power.

GETTING STARTED

1. Discuss an elephant in the room from your childhood. (Something that everyone was always thinking or worried about, yet no one could ever bring up.)

BIBLE IDEA

2. Read Genesis 37:5-8; 23-28 & 39:11-15:19-20. Share about the different problems Joseph had to face. Talk about what sort of hurts he might have carried because of his past.
3. Read Genesis 45:1-9: 50-20. What principle did Joseph stand on to overcome his pain to embrace his family again? How can you connect this principle from Joseph's story to your own life?
4. Read Matthew 6:14-15. In your own words, what is Jesus warning us about? How does this statement have more to do with who has lordship over your life?
5. Read Ephesians 4:29-32. Name the negative attributes we are to leave behind. Why do you think this is difficult? What are some struggles you've had in this area? How can we truly come to the end of malice towards others (vs. 32)?
6. Read Colossians 3:12-15. In what ways do you consider yourself 'dearly loved' by God? List all the ways we can choose to respond to others when we rest in the active love of the Father.

NEXT STEPS

7. Can you think of anyone who is struggling with a past hurt? What is one step you will take this week to help them?