

When Reconciliation Seems Impossible

Genesis 45:1-5

The Bible is a book about the importance of relationships and about the importance of _____ broken relationships and how God is the greatest _____ for, and the ever-present _____ of those who need to see a broken relationship restored.

The last 13 chapters of Genesis tell about how Joseph and his brothers' relationship was broken and then restored. Gen. 45:1-5 is the account of the beginning of that restoration. Joseph's uncontrollable weeping indicates that the scars resulting from his brothers' betrayal were numerous, deep, and _____. The terror his brothers felt shows that they had lived with _____, and the heaviness of guilt often causes us to fabricate excuses and build a wall of _____ to acknowledging and addressing it.

Reconciliation seemed an _____. In most broken relationships, everyone usually chooses between one of the two most natural options—_____ or _____, lash out or run out.

But something unexpected happened with Joseph and his brothers. _____. How? By the _____ of the one _____, Joseph. He could do it because he knew God had been _____ even in his years of suffering and pain.

It seems it's always that way in the Bible. Whenever reconciliation takes place, it is always the one who was hurt _____ that opens the door for reconciliation by the sacrifice of _____. It was that way on the cross. Jesus sacrificed His life for us long before we even had any thought of _____. We are saved because He was _____ sacrificing and forgiving.

Reconciliation rarely occurs without _____. By giving His one and only Son, God made the supreme sacrifice for us that we might be reconciled to Him. What sacrifice _____ to reconcile your broken relationships? Additionally, have you sacrificed your _____, your _____-_____, and accepted Christ's gift of salvation to be reconciled to God?