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Steps Toward Reconciliation from the Life of Jacob

- Pray for God's help (Gen. 32:9-12)
- Approach the other person in a spirit of humility (Gen. 33:3)
- Seek (or give) forgiveness (Gen. 33:4)
- If needed, make restitution (Gen. 33:8)

10

Discussion: To you, what is the most challenging step to apply? Why?

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Extreme Forgiveness in Action: A Personal Project

Since Christ has extended His cross work to you, should you not extend the olive branch to others?



NOTES

Reconciliation: The Rightness of Restored Relationships



Mount Calvary Baptist Church
Men's Combined Sunday School Lesson

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2 Reconciliation Defined

- Webster's: "Renewal of friendship after disagreement or enmity"
- NT Greek: καταλλαγή (kat-al-lag-ay') – "restoration to favor" (*Strong's Concordance*)

3 **Discussion:** In your experience, what does it take to restore a relationship with someone?

4 Christ: Our Supreme Example

- But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8)
- That is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:19)

"The Cross is the ultimate evidence that there is no length the love of God will refuse to go in effecting reconciliation."
R. Kent Hughes

5 OT Stories of Reconciliation

- Jacob and Esau (Gen. 32-33)
- Joseph and his brothers (Gen. 45:1-15)

NOTES

6 NT Revelation on Relationships

Peacemaking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all (Rom. 12:18)• Strive for peace with everyone (Heb. 12:14)
Forgiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive (Col. 3:13)
Fellowship	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• But if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin (1 Jn. 1:17)
Unity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment (1 Cor. 1:10)

7 Extending the Olive Branch



"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you."
C.S. Lewis

8 The Biblical Path

- Our priorities (Mt. 5:21-25; Mt. 18:15)
- Our spirit (Mt. 18:21-35)

NOTES
