

# before you leave...



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Pastor Glenn Gunderson

## BEFORE YOU LEAVE: YOUR FAMILY

COVID AND POLITICS HAVE BEEN HARD ON FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS!

*".....since 2016, family interactions have been more likely to drive highly partisan relatives apart than bring them together.....experts say family political disagreements can chafe more than disagreements among friends and colleagues, because of how deeply humans identify with their family members."*

*Time*

THE FAMILY MEMBER WHO I AM NOT AS CLOSE TO AS I WAS TWO YEARS AGO IS: \_\_\_\_\_.

### FIVE REASONS FOR DIVISION IN FAMILIES

1. \_\_\_\_\_ OF A \_\_\_\_\_

**GENESIS 4:6-9**

NO RECONCILIATION: GENESIS 4:10-12

2. \_\_\_\_\_ BY A \_\_\_\_\_

**GENESIS 21:8-10**

RECONCILIATION: GENESIS 25:8-9

3. \_\_\_\_\_ BY A \_\_\_\_\_ AND  
\_\_\_\_\_

**GENESIS 25:27-28**

RECONCILIATION: GENESIS 32:3-11; GENESIS 33:1-11

4. \_\_\_\_\_ OF A \_\_\_\_\_

**GENESIS 30:1**

NO RECONCILIATION: GENESIS 35:16-19

5. \_\_\_\_\_ BY A \_\_\_\_\_

**GENESIS 37:3-4**

NO RECONCILIATION AT THE BEGINNING: GENESIS 37:23-28

RECONCILIATION AT THE END: GENESIS 50:15-21

ONE STEP I CAN TAKE TODAY TO RECONCILE IS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**ROMANS 12:18**

**Fill in the blanks:** jealousy, brother, favoritism, mother, favoritism, mother, father, jealousy, sister, favoritism, father

*The following questions are provided for your personal reflection and application and for you to discuss with your family, friends, and Life Group. If you are missing any Study Guides, they are available at the Connect Center or online with the sermon archives each week.*

### OPEN UP

Is it difficult for you to apologize after an argument? Why or why not?

### READ THIS

Colossians 3:12-14

### ASK THIS

Why is forgiveness of others important to God?

Of the traits listed in Col 3:12, which do you find most difficult to live out in your relationships?

Why is love for others so crucial for believers (Col 3:14)

How would your relationship with Jesus change if you started practicing forgiveness as outlined here? How would your relationships with others change?

### READ THIS

Ephesians 4:1-6, Galatians 3:26-29

## ASK THIS

Are you living up to the “calling you have received” in your home/relationships? Why or why not?

Of the qualities listed in Eph 4:2, which do you demonstrate best in your home/relationships?

Why is it important to God that the family of believers remain unified?

What effect does being “in Christ” have on relationships among believers (Gal 3:26)?

## DO THIS

This week, set aside time to pray over the difficult relationships in your life. Invite the Holy Spirit to make you aware of any steps you need to take to find reconciliation with the person/people in your life.

Try praying Psalm 139:23-24:

Search me, God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my anxious thoughts.  
See if there is any offensive way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.