



Message Discussion Guide Week of January 29, 2023

Message: Reset, Part 4: Resetting Relationships

Key Scripture: [Genesis 50:15-21](#)

Preacher: Bud Fickley

Message Highlights:

There are so many things in our world that can put stress on our relationships – relationship with friends, family, co-workers – even casual acquaintances – can be impacted by things like politics and pandemics. Even extended time together around the holidays can bring out our worst in relationships.

In order for a relationship to be reset, forgiveness has to be **asked for** and **offered**. It's a two-way street that requires both parties to participate.

To reset our relationship, we first need to accept that it's God's place to judge, NOT ours.

- When we hold a grudge against someone, we are passing judgment on them, or at a minimum, on their actions.
- Joseph asked his brothers, "Am I God?" When we feel like we're judging others, we have to ask ourselves the same question.

It's not just our relationship with others that has to be reset – we also need to reset our relationship with God. Jesus death and resurrection is God's offer of forgiveness but we still have to ask for it. When we repent, we ask God for the forgiveness he has already offered us but it brings us into participation.

Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Bud talked at the beginning of his message about some of the situations that cause us to have tension in our relationships. Specifically, he mentioned things like the pandemic, politics and even holiday gatherings. What are some ways those circumstances have impacted your relationships? Are there other situations in life that frequently impact your relationships?

2. It's easy to think we don't hold grudges, but if we look at the word for Hebrew word we translate as grudge, it means to have hostility or enmity. If you were asked if you have enmity or hostility in your life, would your answer be different? Why do we allow ourselves to feel hostile toward others?
3. Read [Matthew 26:69-75 and John 21:15-19](#). How do you think Peter felt when he realized he had created a fracture in his relationship with Jesus? What about when Jesus "reset" his relationship with Peter in John 21?
4. Resetting relationships can be vulnerable. Often it requires us to admit our part in a situation and have difficult conversations with people we are close to.
 - Are there significant relationships in your life that need an opportunity to be reset?
 - What is preventing you from taking steps toward resetting that relationship?
 - What do you need to turn over to God to allow this relationship to be reset?
5. What is one step you can take this week that will bring you closer to resetting your relationship with someone in your life or with God?

Abundant Life Tip: Being God is a big job – bigger than any of us can handle. When we're unwilling to offer or accept forgiveness, when we hold a grudge against people in our lives, when we're unwilling to take part in resetting our relationships, we try to take on God's job and it's a burden we weren't meant to bear.