

**Truth and Reconciliation:**  
*Devotional Reflections from the Book of  
Genesis*

By James Yansen, Jr.

*30 Days of Prayer, Healing, and Restoration for  
Relationships*

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Dedicated to  
All those have taught me the inestimable value of building stronger,  
more meaningful Kingdom relationships

## **Introduction:**

The *Truth and Reconciliation* devotional was indirectly inspired by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) that was set up in post-Apartheid South Africa to foster healing and restoration in that nation. Victims were given a context to share their stories of abuse, while perpetrators were given an opportunity to confess their wrongs and seek forgiveness. The concept of reconciliation is grounded in truth: the truth of victims' anguish and the truth of perpetrators' honest acknowledgment of culpability. Reconciliation is a biblical principle. Paul writes the following in 2 Corinthians 5:17-20:

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. (NIV)

According to Paul, reconciliation is a spiritual responsibility. Further, reconciliation is ultimately about our relationship with God. Christ has graciously given to us the ministry of reconciliation because we, through His death, have been reconciled to God.

This devotional challenges readers to a radical life of reconciliation through prayerfully inviting believers to repair, mend, rebuild, and restore the broken relationships in four spheres of our lives: individual, family, church, and community. As we embark on this journey, individuals, families, and congregations are encouraged to prayerfully seek to confess and right the wrongs perpetrated or condoned, and intentionally provide a context for offering and receiving forgiveness, healing and being healed, restoring and being restored. The ultimate

aim is for entire churches to be reconciled to God beginning with every disciple of Christ in the fellowship of believers.

*How to use this devotional:*

1. Begin by prayerfully reading the assigned biblical passage for the day
2. Prayerfully meditate on the key issues of forgiveness highlighted in the selected scriptures
3. Ponder on the reflection questions/statements, applying the lessons from the biblical passages to your personal or church life and experience
4. If you practice journaling, it would be helpful to journal your responses to the reflection questions/statements
5. Take a few moments to pray using the prayer focus as a guide

*Day 1*

***“Where are You?”***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 3:8-15*

**Reflections:**

1. How did sin affect Adam’s and Eve’s relationship with God and with each other? In what way does broken relationship with God influence our relationships with each other?
2. Think about the broken relationships in your life. What role do you think that broken relationship with God played in the broken relationships in your life?
3. What hope does Genesis 3:15 give for reconciliation of broken relationships

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will open your eyes to the pain of the broken relationships in your life, and that He will give you the courage to allow Him to lead you to reconciliation with Him. Pray that God will bring healing in all of your broken relationships.

*Day 2*

***“Am I My Brother’s Keeper?”***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 4:3-16*

**Reflections:**

1. Reflect on the elements of broken relationship in this passage. Can you think of similar experiences in your own life?
2. Reflect on the Cain in you, the things that stir up jealousy within you, the issues that have caused rifts and frictions between you and your loved ones.
3. Do you sometimes feel that God or those around you are more concerned about other people’s feelings rather than yours? Reflect.

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will help you to confront your destructive anger or jealousy and help you to accept the responsibilities of being your brother’s/sister’s keeper.

*Day 3*

*Parting Ways*

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 13:5-9*

**Reflections:**

1. Reflect on some of the issues in your own life that have brought separation or division in your family or close circle of friends.
2. How do you feel about such separation or division? Were some of those rifts avoidable?
3. Do you think that sometimes separation is the best solution to conflict and divisive situations?

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will grant you the wisdom to deal with the strained relationships in your life.

*Day 4*

*It's Your Fault!*

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 16:3-14*

**Reflections:**

1. Reflect on the issues that fueled the conflict and broken relationships in this passage. Can you think of similar experiences in your own life? Reflect.
2. Are there issues in your own life that fuel contention and strife?
3. What can you do to assist in bringing peace and healing in the broken relationships around you or in your personal life?

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will help you to be a catalyst for healing, transformation, and reconciliation in all of your relationships.

*Day 5*

***Your Sister?***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 20:1-17*

**Reflections:**

1. Have you or your family ever been victims of emotional wounds, criticism, or disgrace on account of the actions or inactions of someone else? Reflect.
2. Can you think of a family member or friend who may have been inadvertently wounded by your actions or inactions? Reflect.
3. Reflect on the ways in which fear or cowardice have impacted on your relationships

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will remove malice and hatred from your heart and help you to forgive those who have wronged you. Pray that those whom you have wronged will find it in their hearts to forgive you.

*Day 6*

***Why Me?***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 21:8-21*

**Reflections:**

1. Have you ever been, intentionally or unintentionally, the cause of friction or contention in a relationship? Reflect.
2. Do you ever feel that you are misunderstood, misjudged, and underappreciated for your efforts to help others? Reflect.
3. Have you ever been mistreated by someone you respected? Do you think that you can ever forgive that person? Reflect.

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will vindicate you and replace your anger with peace, your hatred with love, and your hurts with healing.

*Day 7*

*Birthright*

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 25:24-34*

**Reflections:**

1. Reflect on the past and present relationships in your life that have been or are strained because of personality differences or jealousy?
2. Do the gifts and blessings of others ever cause you to feel jealous of those individuals or tempted to covet what they have? Reflect.
3. Do you think that your gifts and blessings have sometimes caused others to feel jealous or resentful of you? Reflect.

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will help you to appreciate your gifts and blessings, and use them to bless others rather than hurt them.

*Day 8*

*Family Drama: Part I*

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 27:1-14*

**Reflections:**

1. Has a family member or friend ever placed you in a compromising situation which challenged your core values or principles? Reflect.
2. Have you ever had to choose between maintaining your integrity and protecting a cherished relationship with a family member or friend? Reflect.
3. Would you ever compromise your principles to save a relationship with a family member or close friend? Reflect.

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will give you the wisdom and courage to confront the things in your family and other relationships that are divisive. Pray that He restores integrity in your familial relations.

*Day 9*

***Family Drama: Part II***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 27:15-29*

**Reflections:**

1. Are there elements of deception and dishonesty that have left your family scared? Reflect.
2. Reflect on some of the ongoing hurts and scars in your family
3. What can you do to begin the process of healing and restoration in your family?

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will mend the broken relationships in your family.  
Pray that He will establish truth and honesty as core values in your family.

*Day 10*

***Family Drama: Part III***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 27:30-40*

**Reflections:**

1. Have you ever been wounded by a family member or close friend? Reflect.
2. Do you still carry a grudge or hatred in your heart for something a family member did to you? Reflect.
3. Is there a family member or close friend who continues to be a “thorn in your flesh”? Are there family members and former close friends that you have cut out of your life because of hurts they have inflicted on you? Reflect.

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will bless those who have hurt and mistreated you.  
Pray that He will grant you a heart of love to forgive your enemies.

*Day 11*

*Family Drama: Part IV*

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 27:41 – 28:9*

**Reflections:**

1. Have you ever been betrayed by a family member or close friend? Reflect.
2. Do you find it almost impossible to forgive and move beyond what was done to you? Reflect.
3. Do you ever feel that the challenge to forgiveness is unfair and impractical, and that God, sometimes, seems to side with those who have hurt you? Reflect.

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God, through Jesus Christ, will heal your hurts. Lift up to God all of your emotional and psychological scars. Ask for the power to forgive.

*Day 12*

*Double Crossed*

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 29:16-26*

**Reflections:**

1. Reflect on the issue of betrayal of trust in this passage. How important is trust to you in your relationships?
2. Are there people in your life who have betrayed your trust or your family's trust? Reflect.
3. Have you or your family betrayed the trust of anyone or another family? Reflect. How can you begin to restore trust in your broken relationships?

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God, through the Holy Spirit, will restore trust in your relationships, that He will establish integrity as the cornerstone of all your interactions.

*Day 13*

***“Give me Children!”***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 30:1-2*

**Reflections:**

1. Have you noticed traces of jealousy and malice in your relationships? Reflect.
2. Have you ever snapped at or been harsh with a family member or close friend who was obviously hurting and needed your support? Reflect.
3. Are there relationships in your life that have been negatively affected by insensitivity or unkindness? Reflect.

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray for a heart that is sensitive to the needs of others. Pray for a spirit that is satisfied and fulfilled, a spirit that has no room for jealousy.

*Day 14*

***The Perils of Blessings***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 31:1-9*

**Reflections:**

1. Are there relationships in your life that you suspect were strained because you were noticeably blessed and favored by God? Reflect.
2. As you celebrate God’s blessings in your life, are you mindful of and sensitive to those who are not as fortunate as you are? Reflect.
3. There is a very thin line between celebrating God’s blessings in your life and boasting. What can you do to build better relationships with those who are not as noticeably blessed as you are?

**Prayer Focus:**

Thank God for His blessings and favors in your life. Pray that God will teach you to love the *Labans* in your life. Pray that your testimonies and thanksgivings would not inspire jealousy but adoration of God.

*Day 15*

***“What is My Crime?”***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 31:36-55*

**Reflections:**

1. Reflect on the hurts, wounds, and unresolved pains that you need to confront and find closure for in your life.
2. Are there fractured relationships in your life for which you do not know the origins, source, or cause of the fracture? Reflect.
3. What are you willing to do to mend the fractured relationships in your life?
4. Are there people that you will need to call or meet with to find out in what ways you have wronged them? Reflect.

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will search your heart and reveal to you the wrongs that you have done to others. Pray that He will help you to grow beyond the pains of your past hurts.

*Day 16*

***The Enemy Within Me***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 32:22-32*

**Reflections:**

1. What hurts, wounds, pains, or scars from your past continue to trouble your mind today? Reflect.
2. Are there mistakes that you have made for which you are still struggling to accept God’s forgiveness? Reflect.
3. In what areas of your life do you need victory, forgiveness, and restoration? Reflect.

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will deliver you from the enemy within you. Pray that He will challenge the worst in you to bring out the best in you. Accept God’s forgiveness that is full and free.

*Day 17*

*Sealed With a Kiss*

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 33:1-15*

**Reflections:**

1. Are there *Esau*s in your life whose forgiveness you need? Reflect.
2. Is there an ex-friend, a family member, or a group with whom you need to be reconciled? Reflect. What prevents you from being reconciled to that person or group?
3. What would it mean to you to be able to embrace and be embraced by an estranged friend or family member?

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will provide an opportunity for you to be reconciled with the *Esau*s in your life. Pray for courage and commitment to forgive and accept the forgiveness from those who have wounded you and those whom you have wounded, respectively.

*Day 18*

*Deep Wounds*

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 34:1-12*

**Reflections:**

1. Have you ever wounded or been so deeply wounded by someone that it seemed as if any attempt at reconciliation or appeasement would deepen or reopen the wounds, or, worse yet, cause an already irreparable wound to fester? Reflect.
2. Can you think of experiences in your life, either things you have done or things done to you, where conciliatory expressions like “please forgive me,” “I am sorry,” or “I made a mistake,” seemed inadequate and pointless? Reflect.
3. How have your wounds influenced your relationship with God?

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will pour His balm of healing and the oil of gladness into your wounds: those you have inflicted and those inflicted on you. Pray for emotional wholeness.

*Day 19*

*Deeper Wounds*

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 34:13-31*

**Reflections:**

1. Reflect on the issue of revenge in this passage. Have you ever been overcome by the emotion of revenge or been the victim of someone's revengeful outburst? Reflect.
2. Do you ever feel that revenge is the only way to confront, find healing, and receive justice for the wrongs done to you? Reflect.
3. Are there relationships that you have had that you suspect might have been permanently damaged because of how you chose to deal with or address your hurts? Reflect.

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will remove the spirit of revenge and merciless justice from your heart and give you a heart to love the unlovable, and forgive the unforgivable.

*Day 20*

*Haters*

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 37:1-11*

**Reflections:**

1. Do you consciously go out of your way to be sensitive to the concerns and needs of those around you? Reflect.
2. Are there people in your life that you detest and disdain? Are there people in your life whose mere presence annoys you? Reflect.
3. Have you been mindful of favoritism, preferential treatment, and excessive affirmation in your life that might have placed a strain on some of your most cherished relationships?

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will open the eyes of your heart to see and relieve the hurts and anguish of those around me. Pray for a spirit of selflessness and humility.

*Day 21*

***Brothers?***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 37:12-24*

**Reflections:**

1. To be hurt by strangers is one thing. To be hurt by brothers, family, your church, or community is quite another thing. Have you ever felt rejected by your own family, church, or community? Reflect.
2. What steps are you willing to take to move beyond the hurts your 'brothers' have inflicted on you?
3. Have you ever openly supported the 'brothers' or the church, or kept quiet, while evil was done to another 'brother' or 'sister'? Reflect.

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will vindicate his purposes in your life. Pray for grace to love those who have sought to destroy you.

*Day 22*

***Restoring Honor***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 38:15-26*

**Reflections:**

1. In what ways can you help those who have wronged you recognize and acknowledge that they have wronged you?
2. Are you open and willing to accept the truth about yourself and the hurts that you have inflicted on others? Reflect.
3. Are there people in your life whose honor you need to restore?

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will give you wisdom and courage to be confronted with the hurt-causing truth about yourself, and to lovingly confront those truths in others, while seeking to restore relationships.

*Day 23*

***Blame Me***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 39:1-20*

**Reflections:**

1. Have you ever been wrongfully accused of doing something you did not do? Reflect.
2. Sometimes it seems as if the wicked get their way and those who pursue God's will are the only ones who suffer. Reflect.
3. How do you deal with false accusations that destroy or have the potential to destroy relationship?

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will forgive those who have acted wickedly toward you. Pray for continued integrity and transparency in your interactions.

*Day 24*

***Spies***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 42:1-17*

**Reflections:**

1. What do you desire the most from and for those whom you have hurt, and who have hurt you. .
2. What are the greatest hindrances to reconciliation in your difficult relationships?
3. Do you need to see evidence of contrition and change in the lives of those who have hurt you before you offer then forgiveness? Reflect.

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will grant you the heart of Christ to serve Him wholeheartedly. Pray that He will teach you to love unconditionally.

*Day 25*

***“What is That?”***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 42:18-28*

**Reflections:**

1. Have you ever felt that you were being punished for the wrongs you have done to others in the past? Reflect.
2. Do you sometimes feel like rejoicing over the suffering and torment of those who have wronged you? Reflect.
3. Are you convinced that God has already forgiven you for the wrongs you have done to others? Reflect.
4. In what ways does the life of Jesus Christ challenge you to deal with the broken relationships in your life?

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray for the assurance of salvation and restoration in your life.  
Pray that God will live out His life within us.

*Day 26*

***Memory***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 42:29-38*

**Reflections:**

1. We can never completely erase the memories of the evils done to us. In Christ we learn how to forgive and live beyond, and in spite of, those painful memories. Reflect.
2. What sacrifices are you willing to make to mend the broken relationships in your life? Reflect.
3. Once trust has been broken, it is very difficult to completely repair it. Reflect.
4. Are you open to allowing Christ through you to restore trust in your relationships with those who have betrayed you?

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will sanctify your heart and heal your fears. Pray that God gives you the courage to ‘let go and let God.’

*Day 27*

***You Have My Word***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 43:1-14*

**Reflections:**

1. Do you have broken relationships from your past that are still not reconciled? Reflect.
2. Do you live with regrets about things you could have done differently had you known what you know now? Reflect.
3. Are you ready to trust those who have hurt you with your heart, your life, and your sacred treasures? Are you ready to lay aside your personal hurts for the good of others, your family, and your church?

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God, through the Holy Spirit, will conquer self pity in you and enable you to surrender all of your hurts, resentments, and brokenness to Jesus Christ.

*Day 28*

***It's Time to Let Go...***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 43:15-30*

**Reflections:**

1. Reconciliation requires letting go of the hurts, pains, anger, and desire for revenge. Think about the people in your life that you have crushed, intentionally or unintentionally. Think about the people who have hurt you, intentionally or unintentionally. Can you imagine welcoming them to table fellowship at your home, or sitting at table fellowship at their homes? What would such fellowship mean to you?
2. Are there people in your life who have become collateral casualties of your broken relationships? People who never wronged you but who were wounded because of what was done to you or what you did to someone related to them? Reflect.

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray for a spirit of reconciliation and restoration. Pray for complete emotional renewal.

*Day 29*

***Stop The Hurt!***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 44:1-17; 27-34*

**Reflections:**

1. Broken relationships, hurt, and betrayal can become vicious cycles that are prolonged from one generation to another. When is enough truly enough when dealing these kinds of situations? Reflect.
2. In what ways can you stop the cycles of hurt in your fractured relationships in your family, in your church, and in your community? In what ways can you rebuild trust in your relationships?
3. What issues must be confronted in your life, your family, and your church in order to halt the cycles of toxic relationships?

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will bring you face to face with your greatest hurts, and bring complete healing and restoration in your life. Pray for reconciliation in every aspect of your life.

*Day 30*

***“I AM Joseph!”***

**Text:**

*Read Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21*

**Reflections:**

1. Reconciliation requires an acknowledgment of who you are and who your ‘brothers’ and ‘sisters’ are regardless of what they have done to you or what you have done to them. Reconciliation requires that we remove the masks, and facades, that have concealed our hurts, pains, and brokenness. Your ‘brothers’ and your ‘sisters’ must be allowed to see you, your vulnerability, your brokenness, and your incompleteness. You are incomplete without them. You need them and they need you. Reflect.
2. Reconciliation requires that you trust God’s power to heal and restore in the worst evils done to you or through you. God works out His Sovereign will in spite of, in the midst of, regardless of, your broken, strained, and fractured relationships. What was intended to harm and hurt did harm and hurt, but God restores and heals, and ultimately accomplishes His purposes in spite of. Reflect.

**Prayer Focus:**

Pray that God will completely reconcile you to Himself.

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