

The word *estranged* comes from a Latin word that meant “not belonging to the family; a stranger”. Family members can sometimes be estranged from one another due to a conflict in the past. But when they meet and are reconciled, their reunion is watered by tears of joy.

That was the situation with the two sons of Isaac - Esau and Jacob. As the older brother, Esau was in line to receive Isaac’s blessing as the firstborn. But Jacob tricked Isaac into bestowing the blessing on him instead. Esau’s grudge against Jacob caused Jacob to flee for his life to the home of a family relative in a distant land. (Genesis 27:41-45) Many years later, Jacob returned to Canaan with his own family. When Esau saw his younger brother coming, he ran to him and embraced him, and they wept together.

Reconciliation and reunion don’t need to take years of estrangement to heal. Be the first to build a bridge if estrangement has taken place. (Matthew 5:23-24)

Genesis 33:3-4 “Then Jacob crossed over before them and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother. But Esau ran to meet Jacob, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept.”