

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of April 12-18, 2020

“DETOURS & DECISIONS”

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: As your group begins, use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What is the one thing you are secretly pleased that you don't have to do now because of the community quarantine?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Genesis 39. When the author of Genesis says the Lord was with Joseph (cf 39:2,3,21,23), what does it mean? Isn't God supposed to be omnipresent?
2. *Discuss.* From a secular perspective, what benefits and risks would Joseph have if he had considered Mrs. Potiphar's invitation (verse 7)? From a Christian perspective, what is the right thing to do? What can you learn from Joseph's responses to the temptation of Mrs. Potiphar? Can you think of other verse(s) in the Bible about temptation?
3. What false accusation did Mrs. Potiphar make against Joseph (verses 13-18)? What damage did this do to Joseph (verses 19-20)? Have you ever had to be punished for something you did not do or stood up for? What did you feel?
4. *Discuss.* It's a fact that there's injustice and unfairness in this world. What ways in the past have you tried to do something to help others or to someone? What do you think of Joseph's response in this story? (Note: Please DO NOT discuss politics here.)
5. What do you notice about Joseph as a slave of Potiphar (verses 3-6) and Joseph as a prisoner (verses 21-23)? What can you conclude about Joseph's attitudes in both situations? What work has God given you? How would you describe your work ethic? How about your attitude? Would these be God-honoring?

6. In what way is your life like Joseph right now? Feeling imprisoned in some way? Not sure what's going to happen in the next days or weeks ahead? Experiencing the blessing of God's favor? Constantly facing temptation? Difficult and challenging work environment? Not where you want to be? Other?
7. During the sermon, there was an illustration about us responding either like a stone or a sponge when the pressures of life squeeze us. What lesson did you learn from that? In what ways can the detours of life bring a person to have a heart of stone? A soft heart? What does it mean when Pastor Nic said, "The Lord was with Joseph but Joseph was also with the Lord"?
8. **[NEXT STEPS]**
This week, pray for God to continue to help you see the detours of life as part of God's plan to mature us.
 - I will commit to go through the devotionals everyday this week.
 - I will seek to know more about who God is by regularly reading his Word.
 - I will sign-up for the 24/7 Prayer Chain for COVID and commit to pray for 30 minutes a day for one month.
 - I will resist temptation by _____.
 - I will seek to grow in my love and knowledge of God by _____.
 - I will seek to be a worker that glorifies God.
 - I will be thankful for whatever situation I am in today.
 - Other ways I will apply this lesson: _____.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Ask God for wisdom and strength to walk close with him and courage to flee from temptation and compromise.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.