

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of April 19-25, 2020

“DETOURS & DUNGEONS”

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 missed doing that you aren't able to do because of the community quarantine?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Genesis 40:1 begins with “*Some time after this...*” (ESV). What event(s) from the prior chapter do think still rings in Joseph's mind at this time while in prison?
2. Read Genesis 40. What do you think were some of the challenges that Joseph faced while he was in prison? Joseph had every reason to be bitter because he was placed in jail for doing the right thing. Instead, what do you observe in his actions and his words?
3. *Discuss.* What do you think makes a person bitter? Do you know someone who can be considered a “bitter” person? What are some characteristics that you see in a bitter person's life and attitude? What do you think happens when a person remains bitter for a long time? Do you think it's unchristian to be bitter?
4. *Share.* What is striking about Joseph's response to the new inmates? In Genesis 40:8, Joseph anchors everything to God. Have you ever had a moment this week when you responded like Joseph? How easy or difficult is it to have this kind of a mindset?
5. We know that Joseph has God's presence (39:23) and God's promise (37:5-11) yet he still found himself in a pit of suffering. Read Psalm 13. How do you see God's presence connecting with our suffering? Does this challenge you? Comfort you?
6. In verse 23, we are told that the cupbearer “forgot” to mention Joseph to Pharaoh. In 41:1, we are told it was 2 years before he remembered Joseph again. What might

have happened if the cupbearer didn't forget to tell Pharaoh about Joseph when he was freed? Do you things would have become better or worse? Pastor Nic in the sermon said, “*God works while we wait. But God also works on us while we wait.*” Have you ever experienced this recently?

7. *Share.* Of the three lessons from Joseph in the sermon, which one struck you the most as something that applies to you personally in your life stage today?

8. [NEXT STEPS]

This week, pray for God to help you see his hand in whatever circumstance you face and to respond in ways that will glorify him.

- 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 serve God cheerfully and intentionally.
- I will seek to glorify God, acknowledge him and depend on him *first* before anything else.
- I will be thankful to God when he puts me in the “waiting room.”
- I will cultivate a grateful attitude.
- 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's mercy to show you his hand in whatever circumstance you're facing this week. Pray for a thankful heart.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.