

# SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of April 26-May 2, 2020

## “DETOURS & DELIVERANCE”

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### 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 one project have you intended to do or have begun to do or have accomplished during this quarantine period?

### GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Genesis 41:1-46.

1. If you were Joseph and have been called to face the pharaoh and suppose you don't know the reason, what would go through your mind? What would you do to prepare yourself?
2. *Discuss.* What are some proofs that you see which shows that Joseph has not grown bitter in prison but instead had matured in his faith in God. What are some things that you look for in a spiritually mature Christian?
3. *Share.* When Pharaoh was distressed by his dreams, he turned to his wise men and magicians for answers, but God alone could provide the answer and peace that Pharaoh sought. What are things (or persons) that you turn to during times of stress, anxiety, fear, confusion, etc? What should we do instead?
4. *Discuss.* Joseph when he talked to the pharaoh was respectful yet bold to tell the full counsel of God. What does Paul teach us in Colossians 4:2-6 about declaring God's truth, yet being gracious and seasoning our speech with salt? Does this include the things we post online? Can you think of specific examples where Christians exemplified this positively or negatively?
5. God gave Joseph opportunities to make a difference by demonstrating patience, displaying discernment, and being a spiritual influence. Which of these is hardest for you?

6. *Discuss.* In verse 39, Pharaoh recognizes that Joseph's discernment and wisdom come from God. "Discern" means to see or understand. To develop wise discernment like Joseph, what changes do most Christians need to make in their lives? How about you? What are you doing to develop or grow in discernment?
7. *Share.* Ultimately, Genesis 41 is the story of God. Trace God's magnificent chain of providence (from chapter 37 to 41) that brought Joseph to the position of prime minister of Egypt. What are some highlights that resonates or relates to you personally? Why do we usually take a short-term view of life instead of trusting in God's long-term purposes?
8. **[NEXT STEPS]**  
*This week, pray for God to remind you that he is always in-charge and ask the Holy Spirit to transform your mindset, perspective and conviction..*
  - 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 commit to pray for 30 minutes a day (for one week) for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.
  - I will seek to find ways to honor God in what I say (online and offline).
  - I will seek to grow in my awe of God by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 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 for a greater vision of who he is so that you will be dependent on his sovereign will.
- Pray that the Lord will transform your mind, your perspective and your conviction.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.