

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of May 3-9, 2020
"DETOURS & DESTINATIONS"

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 has been the most fun experience that you had during this quarantine period?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Genesis 42:5-17. Put yourself in the shoes of (a) Joseph and (b) one of the brothers in this scene. What do you think were the thoughts that were on their minds? Do you agree with what Pastor Nic said that Joseph might've just wanted to forget the past and move on?
2. Many Bible teachers say that Joseph was just testing his brothers. Does the text ever say that? Did he have the right to test them? Why do you think Joseph did what he did, like pretend not to know them, speak harshly to them and put them in jail? What do you think were his inner motives and struggles?
3. *Share.* Think about a person who has hurt you and has never asked for forgiveness from you. How did you handle the hurt? Did you ever forgive that person? In your experience, have you ever said, "I already forgave that person" and yet deep in your heart, you are actually still struggling with it? Is forgiveness a one-time thing, or something that can be a continuing issue?
4. Read Colossians 3:13, Matthew 6:14-15, Ephesians 4:31-32, 1 John 1:9, Matthew 5:23-24. What do these verses say about forgiveness? If you were the aggrieved party, what should you do? If you were the one who sinned, what should you do? (Let these passages not just be theoretical. Is there anyone you need to forgive? Is there anyone you need to ask for forgiveness from?)
5. Read Genesis 42:18-26. Why do you think Joseph's brothers may have been worried in this situation? Why do you think Joseph's brothers still felt the guilt about what they had done to Joseph so many years earlier? What do you learn from these passages about guilt? How should one handle a guilty conscience?

6. Read Genesis 38:1-5, 13-14. What do these verses tell us about Judah's choice of an associate, a place to settle, and about his choice for a wife? In verses 13-14, the text indicates that Tamar knew exactly what to do to get Judah's attention on the road to Timnah. What does this tell us about Judah's moral life?
7. Read Genesis 38: 24-26. In these turn of events, what is your impression about Tamar? About Judah? When you read about Judah in Genesis 43:8-9, 44:32-34, what has changed about Judah?
8. Read Matthew 1:1-3; Ruth 4:11. What do these verses say about Tamar, Perez and Judah? What do these verses say about God? In light of these, how important do you think is Genesis 38 and how does the story of Judah encourage you?
9. **[NEXT STEPS]**
This week, remind yourself that God's purpose is not just to fulfil his plans for your life but also to mold you to become more like Jesus.
 - 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 forgiveness from people I have sinned against and forgive those that have sinned against me. (Be sure to check your motive first before the Lord.)
 - I will surrender to God's hand of molding and discipline in my life.
 - 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:

- Pray for spiritual growth, that God will mold you to become more like Jesus.
- Pray for wisdom for our government leaders during this COVID crisis; pray for provision for the brethren especially during this time of quarantine.
- Pray that there will be many souls that will come to Christ through this pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.