

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of May 10-16, 2020

“DETOURS & DISASTERS”

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 most ridiculous thing that your parents and/or close friends have done to embarrass you?

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Read Genesis 45:1-16. In what ways did you identify with Joseph, who was in a position of strength and had to choose whether or not to forgive? In what ways did you identify with the brothers, who were vulnerable, depleted, and in need of forgiveness.
2. *Share.* When Joseph explained to his brothers his perspective (including that of the famine), he repeated three times to them that it was God who sent him. Can you share an experience in your own life where you had a similar realization of God's hand in a difficult situation that you had gone through? How did God open your eyes?
3. C.S. Lewis once said: *“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pain: it is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.”* What do you think are some reasons why God would allow his children go to through pain? What biblical stories or passages remind you of this reality?
4. Read Genesis 47:13-26. When you read this part of the story of Joseph, in what ways do you see Joseph act with integrity? What other words can you think of that relates to integrity?
5. *Discuss.* When the famine came to Egypt, things like money, possessions, properties and power suddenly became unimportant or worthless. In what ways do the crisis of life cause people to re-evaluate priorities and rethink about what's truly important?

6. The underlying assumption of Joseph was that he had a famine to manage. In reading the passage, what do you think were some of the challenges that Joseph had to face all this time? Most of us don't handle a crisis of such magnitude, but what does Joseph's story teach us?

7. *Share.* Pastor Nic gave this illustration in highlighting these three words from Genesis 50:20 – Evil. God. Good – that when God is in the middle of life, evil can become good. Why do you think this truth is repeated throughout the story of Joseph? In what specific way can you apply this in your life?

8. [NEXT STEPS]

This week, pray that we learn from Joseph to be aware of God's presence, to act with integrity and to accomplish God's plan..

- 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 carve out time for God this week, specifically by _____.
- I will rely on the Lord and not on my own strength.
- I will press on with what God has called me to do.
- 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 that you will experience the closeness of God this week.
- Pray for a heart of integrity and steadfastness in doing the will of God.
- 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.