

LifeGroup Discussion | Working in the Waiting | Week of 1/19

Main Passage: Genesis 41–42

Supporting Passages: Romans 8:28–30; Galatians 1:13–21

Main Idea/Question: What does it look like to trust God in the waiting?

Culture Code Emphasis: Humility Over Rightness

Before LifeGroup

- Review your LifeGroup Values.
- Ask yourself—"Which of these on-ramps (PORCH TALK, LIVING ROOM, AFTER GLOW) best reflects our values and the needs of our group this week?"
- Then start your discussion in that section. Week to week may change what section you resource for your meeting.

On-Ramps

- **Porch Talk**—*use these questions over food or casual interactions. Feel free to make them more personable based on the contents of the sermon being discussed.*
- **Living Room**—*use these questions in an environment when your group is 'all in' and had the opportunity to attend or listen to the sermon prior to LifeGroup.*
- **After Glow**—*use this section if your group wants to dig deeper or as follow-up email/text messages or conversations that come up after your time as a group.*

PORCH TALK—*use these questions over food or casual interactions. Feel free to make them more personable based on the contents of the sermon being discussed.*

What did you hear on Sunday?

Did you learn anything new?

Do you have any questions or was there anything you didn't understand?

How can we take what we've discussed into our week?

How can I be praying or holding you accountable in response to what you heard?

More Scriptures to Consider:

Genesis 21:1-5, Psalm 27, Psalm 37; Luke 2:22-39; Colossians 3:1-4

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LIVING ROOM—*use these questions in an environment when your group is ‘all in’ and had the opportunity to attend or listen to the sermon prior to LifeGroup.*

Discussion

To Know/To Share: *Joseph sat in prison for two years before God gave Pharaoh two dreams that predicted not only the future of Egypt but in lands throughout the earth, (Gen. 41:57). Though not always clear, God had a plan in Joseph’s waiting.*

Read: Genesis 41:1a, 38–40

Say: Between the pit Joseph’s brothers threw him in, and the prison Potiphar placed him in, Joseph did a lot of waiting. However, when Pharaoh asked him to interpret his dreams, Joseph still pointed to God as his source.

Ask: Can you share a time when your life was difficult, but you were able to still point to God as your source? If not yourself, can you share someone else’s story?

Read: Genesis 41:39–45

Say: Joseph was in prison for two years—waiting with faith for something to change—and through God’s providence, he went from prisoner to second most powerful person in Egypt.

Ask: What Biblical truths might we find in this quick reversal of circumstances?

Follow-Up: What must we be careful to not conclude from this passage?

Read: Genesis 41:46–52, Romans 8:28–30

Say: Even though Joseph enjoyed success, we see through the names he gave his sons that his heart was still mindful of what he lacked—a restored relationship with his family.

Ask: Did you know you could hold space for what is still missing?

Follow-Up: Would you be willing to share a time when God’s faithfulness was evident, but you still held space for what you lacked?

Application

Say: Genesis 42 is in the *middle* of the story for Joseph. He’s found his brothers, but there is a lot more work for God to do. We are all in the middle of our stories, too. May we trust that the God who was working in Joseph’s waiting is working in our waiting, too.

Close in Prayer

Sample: Father God, we wait on You. Help us to delight in the waiting and to value the middle of the story. May we encourage one another, hold space for the disappointments, and rest in knowing that You work for the good of those whom You love and have been called according to your purpose. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

More Scriptures to Consider:

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AFTER GLOW—*use this section if your group wants to dig deeper or as follow-up email/text messages or conversations that come up after your time as a group.*

Say: One of our culture codes is *Humility Over Rightness* and when we find ourselves suffering—by no fault of our own—it can be difficult to live humbly. We want to shout: “It’s not fair! This isn’t my fault!”

Ask: How have you been able to remain steady in a season of waiting? How have you trusted God even though you couldn’t see visible signs of Him working?

Read: Galatians 1:13–21

Say: It’s easy to look at Paul’s highlight reel and assume he went from persecutor to preacher overnight. But as we read in Galatians, there was a substantial amount of time and growth that took place in Paul before he started preaching Christ regularly.

Ask: If you are in a season of waiting, how is God using this time where your circumstances have not changed to instead change you?

Follow-Up: If you’ve been here before, what encouragement can you offer those in seasons of waiting?

Say: In her book, *Unseen*, Sarah Haggerty writes, “We feel like we’re waiting it out or merely enduring hardship, but, from God’s angle, these times are purposed.”

Ask: Do you ever feel like you’re just *waiting it out* for a better season to come?

Follow-Up: What would happen if we began to see the waiting as a sweet time with God where He truly is all we have? Could we possibly view the waiting as purposeful?

Further Reflection: Listen/watch one of the following:

- Listen to this song by Tasha Layton, “Thank You for the No.”
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=29j1DaogY-A>
- Watch this sermon from the Exile Series “In but not of Babylon.”
<https://www.legacychurch.org/sermons/sermon/2023-07-30/in-but-not-of-babylon>

Thoughts to Chew On:

- “There are times when God tucks us away. He might hide us in a difficult job or an unwelcomed circumstance where we feel like no one gets us, where we feel misunderstood. He might hide us in a crowd where we feel lost—unseen—or behind the front door of our homes, changing diapers and burping babies. He does this all so that we might see another side of Him...” *Unseen* by Sarah Haggerty
- “To wait in expectancy rather than expectation requires humility. It acknowledges one’s limitations both in power and perspective, and trusts in the limitless power and goodness of God.” *Wait* by Rebecca Brewster Stevenson

More Scriptures to Consider:

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