

LifeGroup Discussion | Working in the Waiting | Week of 2/2

Main Passage: Genesis 50

Supporting Passages: Hebrews 6:19, 2 Corinthians 1:20-22, Ephesians 1:9-10a, Colossians 1:19-20

Reflective Passages: Romans 12:17-21, Isaiah 41:10, Philippians 4:19, Romans 8:28-30, Job 42:2, Proverbs 3:5-6a

Main Idea/Question: How can we trust God's sovereignty and faithfulness in seasons of waiting and hardship?

Culture Code Emphasis: Grace without Compromise

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?

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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: *Genesis 50 concludes the story of Joseph and the book of Genesis, emphasizing God's sovereignty and faithfulness to His promises.*

Read: Genesis 50:15-18

Say: Joseph's brothers feared retribution after their father's death, despite Joseph's previous forgiveness.

Ask: Why do you think it can be difficult to accept forgiveness, even when it's genuinely offered?

(Ideas: guilt, shame, fear of consequences, inability to forgive yourself)

Read: Genesis 50:19-21

Say: Joseph responds with forgiveness and reassurance, recognizing God's sovereign plan.

Ask: How can viewing difficult circumstances through the lens of God's sovereignty change our perspective and response?

(Ideas: brings peace, helps us forgive, allows us to see a bigger purpose)

Read: Hebrews 6:19

Say: Our hope in God is described as an anchor for the soul.

Ask: In what areas of your life do you need to anchor your hope more firmly in God's promises?

Application

Say: Joseph's story teaches us that God is sovereign over all circumstances and faithful to His promises. This week, let's practice trusting God in our waiting seasons and difficult situations, remembering that He is working for our good and His glory.

Close in Prayer Sample:

Lord, thank You for Your sovereignty and faithfulness. Help us to trust You in every season of life, especially in times of waiting and hardship. May we, like Joseph, choose forgiveness and maintain our hope in Your promises. Give us the strength to live out our faith, anchoring our hope in You alone. Amen.

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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: Our culture code "Grace without Compromise" reflects Joseph's response to his brothers. It challenges us to extend grace while upholding truth and justice in our daily lives. As theologian D.A. Carson notes, "The cross is the ultimate example of grace without compromise - where God's justice and mercy meet."

Ask: How can we practically extend grace without compromising truth in our relationships and daily interactions? Consider Romans 12:17-21 as you reflect on this.

Read: 2 Corinthians 1:20-22

Say: This passage reminds us that all of God's promises find their "Yes" in Christ. New Testament scholar N.T. Wright explains, "The promises of God are not simply about future bliss, but about the reality of God's kingdom breaking into the present."

Ask: How does knowing that God's promises are fulfilled in Christ impact your ability to trust Him in difficult times?

Follow-Up: Can you share a specific promise from Scripture that you're clinging to in your current season? Consider promises like Isaiah 41:10 or Philippians 4:19.

Read: Ephesians 1:9-10a and Colossians 1:19-20

Say: God has a plan to unite all things in Christ. Biblical scholar Gordon Fee writes, "This 'mystery' is not about hidden knowledge, but about God's eternal purpose now revealed in Christ."

Ask: How does understanding God's ultimate plan help you persevere through challenging circumstances? Reflect on Romans 8:28-30 as you consider this question.

Say: "God is too good to be unkind and He is too wise to be mistaken. And when we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart." - Charles Spurgeon

Ask: In what area of your life do you need to trust God's heart, even when you can't trace His hand? Consider Job 42:2 and Proverbs 3:5-6 as you ponder this.

Further Reflection:

- Corrie ten Boom: "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God." Joseph trusted God's plan for Israel's future.
- A.W. Tozer: "Behind the scenes there is a God who hasn't surrendered His authority." Even our mistakes can't thwart God's plan.
- Tim Keller: "God will only give you what you would have asked for if you knew everything He knows." Aligns with Joseph's understanding of God's purpose in his suffering.

Thoughts to Chew On:

- Charles Spurgeon: "When we cannot trace His hand, we must trust His heart." Chew on your faith in dark times.
- Romans 8:28: "In all things God works for the good of those who love him." Chew on God's providence over you and your family's life.

Close in Prayer Sample:

*Father God, we're blown away by Your sovereignty and faithfulness, even when life gets messy. Help us trust You in the waiting, knowing that You're working all things for our good and Your glory, as **Romans 8:28** reminds us. Give us the strength to choose forgiveness and reconciliation, just like Joseph did, following the example in **Genesis 50:20-21**. And Lord, anchor our hope firmly in Your promises, as Hebrews 6:19 says, reminding us that what You start, You always finish, as **Philippians 1:6** assures us.*