



Week 10: Do All Things Work Together For Good?

FACILITATOR'S NOTE:

Regarding COVID: While stress from the COVID-19 pandemic is still high, be sure to check in with group members with what has come to be known as **CPR** (Care, Prayer, Remember):

- **Care** refers to loving and supporting each other, from helping one another with tangible needs, rejoicing in celebrations together, and supporting personal struggles with encouragement and empathy
- **Prayer** refers to bringing our worries and needs before God and depending on him for the answers as we pray for each other, our community, and the world
- **Remember** refers to reflecting on God for who He is, what He has done in our lives, and what He is capable of doing

For more resources on care and prayer, check out the Slack channels.

Using the Discussion Questions:

- ✓ Start your group discussion with the "Check-in" question to help your members reflect back on their week and follow up on last week's application challenge.
- ✓ Review the "Big Idea" to help you gain clarity around the heart of this week's message.
- ✓ Read this week's scripture passages together and guide your group through the "Discuss" questions to initiate meaningful dialogue around key concepts or insights from this week's message.
- ✓ Move your group discussion to a deeper level by leading them through questions in "Apply". Use discernment to customize these application questions to meet the needs & dynamics of your group.

NOTE: You do not have to cover all the "Discuss" or "Apply" questions.

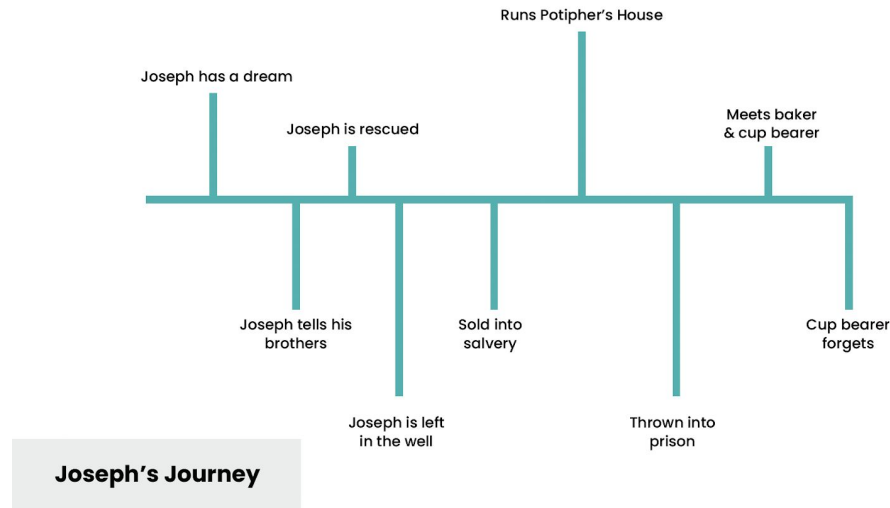
- ✓ Connect with God together as a group through this week's "prayer practice", which can be in the form of a prayer exercise or some guidance on what to pray for in relation to the message or application.

CHECK-IN	What is one thing that has impacted you the most during this series on the life of Joseph?
BIG IDEA	<p>Do all things really work together for good? When observing the timeline of Joseph's life, we see that despite one hardship after another, all things DO work together for good. The same is for us! God's providence is always there, in control, in charge and unmistakably keeps our best interests at heart.</p> <p>When we ask ourselves the question, "Can I trust God with the details of my life?", it's no longer a matter of, "Can you?" but "Will you?" God's providence, or redemptive purpose, anchors our soul in turbulent times.</p>

DISCUSS

Read Genesis 45:5-8 and Romans 8:28

1. In reference to the timeline of Joseph's journey, how did God redeem the negative events in Joseph's life?



2. Using one word, how does God's providence in your life make you feel?

APPLY

How do we respond to God's teaching in meaningful ways? What might God ask of us in mind, spirit, or actions?

*In reference to the timeline of Joseph's journey, we can see God's redemptive purposes and how He used negative events in Joseph's life for good. Likewise, there are many events in our life that God will redeem for His good.

- *Using the attached template, take 10-15 minutes to draw a timeline of your own life similar to the one shared of Joseph's. Marking the events above the middle line to represent the good times and below for difficult times.
- Go over the timeline you just made, identify the areas where you have witnessed God's hand in your life.
- Spend time in personal reflection and prayer, praising God for the positive turns and to surrender those negative turns that have not yet seen God's redemptive purpose. Trusting that God will redeem them,
- Share your timelines with one another and what came to your mind during the reflection and prayer.

**PRAYER
PRACTICE**
(15 minutes)

Fasting:

At its core, fasting is choosing to temporarily set aside something in order to draw closer to God. But these days, what you give up isn't restricted to food, entertainment or pleasure. This month our spiritual practice will be 'fasting' with a different focus each week. Remember - God is interested in who we're becoming.

This week, fast **premature resolutions**.

During low points in our lives, it's tempting to demand that God "cut to the chase" or "skip to the end". "I just want this to be over with." From what we've learned of providence, God wastes nothing on the journey of spiritual transformation. When tempted to rush through this journey, resist tidying up in the muddy middle of the process and ask instead, "Will I trust God with the details of my life? Where are God's fingerprints in this?" Fast the desire for premature resolutions, in order to draw closer to God.

Group Spiritual Practice:

Take 2 minutes in silence to reflect on where the trouble is in your life. Ask for God's help to reveal this. Then ask yourself, "Where are God's fingerprints in this? Will I trust God with the details of my life?"

As led by the Holy Spirit, share what you are hearing, first by typing into the CHAT box in your virtual meeting, then verbally. Allow 5 minutes for typing before beginning any verbal sharing.

Throughout the weeks leading up to Easter, continue sharing what you are experiencing with this fast through Chats, emails, texts, etc.

(Adapted from 40 Days of Decrease: A Different Kind of Hunger. A Different Kind of Fast. Alicia Britt Chole)