

# ONE

## STORY

### SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

### WEEK 4

### Joseph

#### BEFORE THE SESSION:

- Look over the suggested questions to the right. Ask God to guide you to the ones that will work best for your group.
- Be prepared to get the discussion going in your group if they're not feeling it today.
- Don't feel like you have to know all there is to know about scripture. Use this week's study notes to prepare yourself. But, if something arises that you can't answer, tell your group, "That's a great question. I'll research that and get back with you." Then, email eddie. mosley@lifepointchurch.org for help.

#### THIS WEEK'S BIG IDEA

God orchestrated a seemingly bad situation in Joseph's life because He was using Him for a greater purpose.

#### TO PREPARE FOR NEXT WEEK:

Next week we will read the remainder of Genesis along with Exodus 1-15. We will take a look at how God redeemed His people by calling Moses to lead them out of captivity in Egypt.

#### AS YOU READ...

...Think through the highs and lows of your own life. Allow yourself to be reminded that even though we don't always see the whole picture, God is a God of redemption.

## CONNECT

(10 min.)

Choose one of the following questions to begin your time together as a group. If your group has been together longer, you may want to skip question 1 in favor of question 2.

1. **If you could describe yourself with three words, what would they be and why?**
2. **Describe a time when you've been shown unconditional love from a family member.**

## EXPLORE

(40 min.)

Say something like, "Today we're going to take a look at the story of Joseph, a man who got a raw deal from his brothers. But God redeemed it all because He had a plan for Joseph's life." Then guide your group through these questions...

3. **If you attended worship this week, what statement or experience stood out to you? What stood out during last week's reading?**

**(Leader:** Take some time to discuss any questions that may have arisen as your members read through this week's assigned reading.)

4. **Enlist volunteers to read Genesis 37:24-28, 37:36, 39:20, and 41:15-16. How did God direct what appears to be coincidence in these situations?**
5. **Re-read Genesis 37:26-27 and 39:20. Notice that God protected Joseph in these difficult situations.**
6. **Joseph's locations often put him at the right place at the right time to be used by God. Why is it sometimes difficult for us to see God's work in our circumstances?**

God orchestrated many minute details in Joseph's life in order to ultimately fulfill His purpose for Joseph and bring Himself glory.

7. **Read Genesis 45:9-11. What was the purpose in Joseph's life that God was bringing about?**
8. **How do you think understanding the truths we've talked about today affect the way we view the world around us and our lives at this very moment?**

## TRANSFORM

(10 min.)

Say something like, "Today we've talked about God's orchestration of the circumstances of Joseph's life to use Joseph to make His name famous." Then wrap up your time by asking the following question.

9. **How can you begin to live today's truths this week?**

Close by reminding your group of how to be prepared for next week's session. (See box on left.) Then pray together.

# This Week's Study Notes:

## Who Was Joseph?

The great grandson of Abraham. One of twelve sons. Joseph had a lot of things going his way in life at first. He was handsome. He was the first son born to Jacob through Rachel, and therefore, he was his father's favorite son. He had great dreams that made him feel good about himself. But then one day his entire life changed. Can you imagine how it must have felt to know your brothers hated you so much that they would sell you out of their lives? He was forced to leave the comfortable life he had known, full of love from his parents, and go forth into the unknown. How frightening that must have been for a boy of 17. Yet, God had His hand on Joseph. God had a divine purpose for this young man. Joseph didn't know why God had chosen this path for his life until the very end, yet he never seemed to waver. God was always in control. Joseph kept his eyes on God, and He used Joseph greatly.

### Genesis 45:9-11

True to his character, Joseph gives credit where it is due. He does not say, "Pharaoh has made me lord of all Egypt," but rather gives God the glory. Neither did he remind them of his dreams with a subtle "I told you so." Joseph has matured as well. Joseph wants the brothers to hurry home with the news.

## Scripture Notes

### Genesis 37:36

The narrative shifts from Canaan to Egypt and back—from the brothers to Joseph and back. These events must have been hectic and frightening for Joseph. He went from a nomadic life to the greatest civilization of his day, and from freedom to slavery.

### Genesis 39:20

Though prison would never have been pleasant, it could have been much worse for Joseph. Potiphar could have had him executed or put into a dungeon. Perhaps Potiphar used some discernment about both his wife and Joseph.

### Genesis 41:15-16

Joseph's integrity is clearly demonstrated when he repeatedly reminds the people around him that God's power (rather than his own) makes all the difference.

## Leader Tips

### AS YOU READ THIS WEEK...

- Think about and pray for each member of your small group.
- Think through the following questions:
  1. Who does God bring to mind as I read these verses? Why?
  2. What needs to change in my own life as a result of what I'm reading?
  3. To whom do I need to tell about these verses?

### FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY WE RECOMMEND...

- Bible Commentary: [Bible.org](http://Bible.org)
- Bible Commentary: [DesiringGod.org](http://DesiringGod.org)
- Pronouncing Biblical Words: [Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm](http://Netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm)

