

Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of November 10 - 16, 2019

Main Thoughts and Scriptures:

To fulfill God's purpose for our lives, God will lead us to significant defining moments or "turning points." Turning points are moments when we can either turn **away** from God or choose to turn **towards** God in faith. When we choose to turn towards God and honor Him amid our circumstances, God elevates us to new levels in the journey towards our purpose. Joseph's life demonstrated several turning points that we will all face as well. After being sold into slavery by his brothers to Egypt, Joseph chose to honor God. Like him we must:

1) Choose to honor God rather than give in to the temptations of the flesh.

*"...Now Joseph was well-built and handsome, ⁷and after a while his master's wife took notice of Joseph and said, 'Come to bed with me!' ⁸But he refused. 'With me in charge,' he told her, 'my master does not concern himself with anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. ⁹No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. **How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?**' ¹⁰And though she spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her." (Genesis 39:6-10 NIV)*

2) Choose to trust God and to make Him known rather than give in to fear or self-preservation.

*"So Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was quickly brought from the dungeon. When he had shaved and changed his clothes, he came before Pharaoh. ¹⁵Pharaoh said to Joseph, 'I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.' ¹⁶**'I cannot do it,' Joseph replied to Pharaoh, 'but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.'**" (Genesis 41:14-16 NIV)*

3) Choose to forgive instead of holding on to resentment.

*"His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. 'We are your slaves,' they said. ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, 'Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹**So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.' And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.**" (Genesis 50:18-21 NIV)*

Reflection: Break into groups of 3-4 to process the following.

- What stands out to you most from the main thoughts and scriptures above and why?
- Share a time you faced one of the "turning points" listed above. What happened and what did you learn?

Application:

- Are you currently facing a turning point in your life? How do you think you can choose to honor God amid your circumstances?

Prayer: Break into pairs to pray for one another.

- Pray for one another to choose to honor God amid your circumstances.
- Pray for someone far from God to have a turning point in their life.