

Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of September 4 - 10, 2022

Main Thought and Scriptures:

No matter our age, our past, or our present circumstances, God has a purpose for our lives. The story of Joseph in the Bible illustrates this and teaches many valuable lessons on how God leads us into His purpose for our lives. When Joseph was just seventeen, God gave him a dream that he would one day become a ruler over his people.

“Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. ⁶He said to them, ‘Listen to this dream I had: ⁷We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.’ ⁸His brothers said to him, ‘Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?’ And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.” (Genesis 37:5-8 NIV)

1. God has a dream for your life. We were made on purpose and for a purpose.

- Before we were born, God had purpose for each of us. Our job is to discover and walk in it through following Christ.

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.” (Jeremiah 1:5 NIV)

- Initially, Joseph’s ambition was selfish and drew the hatred of his brothers. As he matured, he learned that God’s dream for him was to be a blessing to others.

2. God’s dream for our lives will always be opposed.

“‘Here comes that dreamer!’ they [Joseph’s brothers] said to each other. ‘Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams.’” (Genesis 37:19-20 NIV)

- Out of jealousy, his brothers threw him in a pit and sold him off as a slave to Egypt. Our spiritual enemy, the Devil, always opposes God’s purpose.

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 6:12 NIV)

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10 NIV)

3. God is with us and will lead us to fulfilling His purpose as we walk with Him.

“The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian master.” (Genesis 39:2 NIV)

- Even though Joseph was abandoned by his brothers, God never abandoned him. God was with him in the pit and caused him to prosper in the palace.
- If we are faithful to God no matter the circumstances, He will be with us, and will lead us towards His purpose.

“...God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’ So we say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?’” (Hebrews 13:5-6 NIV)

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28 NIV)

Discussion Questions:

- As you reflect on the weekend sermon, main thoughts, and scriptures above, what is the Lord highlighting to you and why?
- What dreams has God put on your heart? What opposition(s) have you faced in the pursuit of that dream?
- What is one practical takeaway from this discussion that you can apply to your life? How can you be faithful to God in this season as to let Him lead you into your purpose?

Prayer:

- What opposition are you facing right now? Ask God for help to overcome.
- Pray for one another to walk faithfully with God and to let Him lead us into His purpose.