

# Small Group Discussion Guide

For the week of September 25 - October 1, 2022

---

## Main Thought and Scriptures:

We live in a world where individuals seek leadership and power for selfish gain. Oftentimes, this causes relational brokenness in households, workplaces, and society. God's heart for leadership is the exact opposite. God wants to elevate individuals into leadership that He knows will honor Him, serve those they lead, and be a blessing.

In Genesis 41, Pharaoh makes Joseph the highest-ranking official in Egypt. During the great famine, Joseph's brothers—the very ones that sold him into slavery—sought after him for food. Given his position, Joseph could have lorded over his brothers and exacted revenge. Instead, Joseph forgives them and invites them to live in Egypt, which saves an entire nation from famine. Joseph's desire to honor God is the reason for his reconciliation with his family.

*“When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, ‘It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him.’<sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, ‘Your father gave this command before he died:<sup>17</sup>“Say to Joseph, ‘Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.’” And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.’ Joseph wept when they spoke to him.<sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, ‘Behold, we are your servants.’<sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, ‘Do not fear, for am I in the place of God?<sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.<sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones.’ Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.” (Genesis 50:15-21 ESV)*

Similar to Joseph, how we steward God's purpose for our lives and the relationships He has entrusted to us, matter. God provides us with opportunities to excel in leadership and influence, so that His love, faithfulness, and blessing can be experienced by those we lead and serve.

## **Discussion Questions:**

*(Break into groups of 3-4 to discuss.)*

- Share what God is highlighting to you most from the weekend sermon, the main thought, and/or the scriptures above.
- What positions of influence has God called you to in this season (i.e. household, workplace, school, etc.)? What areas of your character is God working on so that you can be more of a blessing to those around you?
- Is there anyone God is calling you to forgive so that relationship can be restored? Like Joseph with his brothers, what blessings do you envision when God restores these relationships?

## **Prayer:**

- Pray for one another to be good stewards of the positions of leadership and influence God has placed us in.
- Pray for the faith to step into opportunities and minister to those God has placed in our lives.
- Pray for the healing of relationships God is calling us to restore.