

# LIFE GROUP GUIDE

## Joseph

### Week 3

#### GOALS

- To talk about the realities of suffering and Jesus empowerment and example for us in the face of them.
- To grow in community through learning God's word, vulnerability, and prayer.

#### TIPS

- This has the potential to be powerful if your group feels safe and are vulnerable. Maybe be prepared to set the tone with some of the things you are suffering, currently.
- Prayer time is important, especially in light of the truth of suffering, ensure you leave enough time at the end to pray.

#### HEADLINES

On Sunday we witnessed Joseph trusting God through his season of injustice, rejection, and ultimately a long time in prison. Joseph models a faith and trust that inspires, but more than that, coaches us.

Some keys to Joseph's trust fit into the acronym: TRUST. He **T**rusted God's timing. He **R**ejected self-pity. He **U**sed his suffering as a means for growth. He **S**erved selflessly. And finally he **T**rusted God's word.

#### PRAYER

Father God, thank you for bringing us together, again, this evening. Open our hearts to you and each other this evening and we seek to see you in circumstances. Thank you that you are

so compassionate and that no suffering is without meaning when we place our faith in you.  
Amen

## DISCUSSION

Life Group Leader: decide if you wish to read the whole chapter out, or to tell the story narratively yourself (summarise). Introduce as a reminder about what the message was on. Read Genesis 40.

1. What stood out for you on Sunday (if you were there) or from listening to this story/recap now?
2. What did you note as most inspiring about Joseph's approach to his season in prison?
3. What are the biggest differences between the way you suffer compared to Joseph?
4. Of the 5 things Joseph does,
  1. He trusted God's timing.
  2. He Rejected self-pity.
  3. He used his suffering as a means for growth.
  4. He served selflessly.
  5. He trusted God's word.

Which of these are you strongest at in tough times? Which would you say you're the weakest at?

5. Which of those attributes do you think best reflects who Jesus was in his ministry on earth?
6. In pairs, share the trial that most real to you right now? How can you draw from Jesus love and grace in this season?

## PRAY

Spend some time praying for what came up in question 6 in pairs and thanking Jesus for what he has said and done to help us in sufferings.

Maybe encourage everyone to pray specifically over the next week for the person they prayed with.