



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: *The Fulfillment Stage of Faith [Genesis 42-50]*

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

As Americans, how do we tend to define fulfillment in life? How or why do these definitions fall short, or leave us unsatisfied?

QUICK REACTIONS

- How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
- What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
- Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

Joseph, endured the humiliation of being sold into slavery by his brothers and the suffering of being falsely imprisoned for 16 years. The last 9 chapters of Genesis reveals another test, perhaps his greatest test. How will he handle the power he has as governor of Egypt?

1. Why, considering all the tests that Joseph has endured, do you think this may be his greatest test?

2. In what ways do you have power and influence in the lives of others?

Dave said, that the fulfillment stage of faith (a mature faith) is one in which God's dream for your life will; 1. Send you to places that serves others and 2. Use your power for the benefit of others.

3. In what ways do you see this most clearly in the life of Joseph? How does this parallel the life of Jesus?

4. What specific thing may God be calling you to do to serve others and use your 'power' for others?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Genesis 50:14-21]

What worried Joseph's brothers after their father died, and what did they do about it? (50:15-18)

There are a lot of emotions swirling around in verses 16-18; fear, potential revenge, appealing to the guilt Joseph may have over his dead fathers last words, appealing to God, acknowledgment of their wrongdoing, begging/groveling, forgiveness, Joseph weeping. They throw the "kitchen sink" at Joseph.

What “from your point of view” is going on here? Is this sincere, insincere, a little bit of both?

What is Joseph’s response? (50:19-21)

In what way would say his response is not what his brothers may have expected?

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

Joseph seems to cry easily...why is that? How may honest emotions be connected to a maturing faith?

What makes forgiving someone who has wronged us so difficult?

How can God bring good out of evil?

How does verse 50 shed any light on Romans 8:28 when the apostle Paul writes...

And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other to live this out?