



## Joseph's Resilience

### WEEK 1 DISCUSSION GUIDE

### OVERVIEW

In this message of the new series entitled, *Inside Matters*, we will learn how to grow on the inside and live out godly character.

### DISCUSSION

God often uses the difficult seasons in our life to transition us from where we are today to where He wants us to be. In these seasons, God grows us on the inside. In Genesis 37, we learn that Joseph was a man destined for influence. But because of Joseph's favor from his dad and the dreams God gave him, he is envied and even hated by his brothers. They even wanted to kill him but ended up selling him into slavery instead. Joseph had a massive God-given dream, yet he also went through huge challenges. Learning from Joseph, we can be encouraged to keep trusting God to see our dreams come to pass.

### Don't give up on your dream...

#### 1. Even if you didn't start off well.

There can be a long gap between when a dream is birthed and when it's realized. Just like Joseph, we sometimes make mistakes trying to accomplish our dreams outside of God's timing. Even if we don't make mistakes, we can still hit roadblocks along the way to seeing our God-given dreams come to reality. Resilience is the ability to withstand adversity and to bounce back from difficult life events. When we trust God with the dreams He's given us, we can grow in our resilience.

- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your resilience?
- Has there ever been a time when you tried to pursue your dream outside of God's timing? What was the result?
- Why is God's timing so important?

#### 2. Even if your family doesn't support it.

Joseph's family didn't understand his dreams and treated him harshly. Unfortunately, sometimes our family can be the place where people are very familiar with us and don't believe in us. Even Jesus couldn't do miracles in His own hometown. We have to be careful that their discouraging thoughts and comments don't prevent us from going after our God-given dreams.

- Have you experienced a time when those closest to you were discouraging you from pursuing your God-given dreams?
- How can we continue to pursue God's purpose for our lives when those closest to us are trying to bring us down?

### 3. Even if your journey is full of surprises and setbacks.

Joseph encountered some serious, intense surprises and setbacks on his journey. These surprises on the journey are really tests. Our dreams will come to critical intersections where we have the choice to either "give up" or "go up." While something may not necessarily be good, God can use it for our good. **Romans 8:28: *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.***

God is not only interested in our dreams, but He also cares about who we are becoming in the process of realizing those dreams. We cannot always control what happens around us, but we can control what happens *in* us. We should keep our eyes fixed on God and not our circumstances. **James 1:2-3: *My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.***

- Share a time when you had the choice to "give up" or "go up."
- What are some ways we can keep our eyes fixed on Jesus and not our circumstances?

### 4. Even if you're hurt and offended.

Our response to offenses determines our future. Joseph fulfilled his God-given dream because he chose to forgive and refused to become bitter. As Joseph grew, he realized life was not about accomplishment, as much as character development. Life is not just about what we accomplish but who we become while we accomplish it. Joseph demonstrated forgiveness, love, and compassion to his brothers. Joseph showed an example of Christ in how he forgave. Just like Joseph forgave his brothers, Christ forgave us.

- Is there anyone you need to forgive for discouraging your dreams or treating you harshly?

## LIFE CHALLENGE

Schedule a time to sit with God, and ask Him what His dream is for your life in this season or the next. Ask Him for wisdom and discernment during this moment. Take some time to listen to what He says, and write it down.

## PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER