11/22

HOME GROUP GUIDE

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

LISTEN	REFLECT	DISCUSS	RESPOND
Listen to the sermon and read through the main passages(s)	Prayerfully answer the questions below	Meet with your group to discuss	Apply the truth of God's word to your life

BACKGROUND:

When we last left Joseph, God had revealed to Pharaoh in a dream that a seven-year famine would strike the land. The famine drove Joseph's father, Jacob, to send his sons to Egypt in search of food. Despite repeatedly witnessing the faithfulness of God, Jacob's past disappointments blinded him to what God was doing.

Unbeknownst to Jacob and his sons, God had placed Joseph in Egypt to preserve His people. He would use the famine that seemed to threaten their future to fulfill His purposes. God's provision isn't limited by our understanding. God gives his people what they need, even when they cannot recognize his provision.

OPEN:

1. Can you think of a time when something that initially felt like a setback later turned out to be a good thing? If so, share it with your group.

REFLECT:

2. Read Genesis 42:1-4. Before this point, how had Jacob experienced God's faithfulness throughout his life? In this current crisis, why might he have sought help from Egypt rather than God?

3. Read Genesis 42:35-38. After Joseph's brothers travel to Egypt for grain, he recognized them and tested their honesty. When they found their payment in their sacks, they feared punishment for betraying him. What do Jacob's words in verse 36 reveal about how the loss of Joseph affected him? Where do you see God providing for Jacob's family before they recognize what He was doing?

4. Read Romans 8:31–32. As Christians, why can we be confident in God's purposes even when we don't know His plans? What does Jacob's story teach us about understanding God's providence when circumstances are unclear?

APPLY:

5. How can past hurt influence the way we respond to uncertainty? What can we learn from Jacob's experience that can help us respond in faith in moments like this?

6. Is there anything you're facing right now that you're tempted to see through a lens of fear? How might remembering God's past faithfulness help you navigate situations like this?

7. Can you share a time when another believer offered some welcome clarity in a seemingly hopeless situation? As a church, how can we help one another recognize God's provision through difficult seasons?

FOR MORE RESOURCES, ACCESS THE HOME GROUP QUESTIONS FROM THE FELLOWSHIP APP, OR HEAD TO OUR WEBSITE AT FELLOWSHIPJACKSON.COM/HOMEGROUPGUIDE