11/29

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 Jacob's sons returned to Egypt for food, they still didn't realize the one they had been dealing with was Joseph. Judah has promised to bring Benjamin safely home. But after Joseph had his silver cup planted in Benjamin's sack, the brothers faced a choice much like the one they faced years earlier. Would they save themselves and leave their half-brother behind? Or would they honor the promise made to their father?

Judah had originally proposed selling Joseph into slavery. Now he was offering to take Benjamin's place as a slave. God was doing more than providing food to preserve His covenant people; He was changing their hearts. The gospel gives us hope that God can change even the hardest heart. He can use testing to reveal genuine change and deepen it as we put our faith into practice.

OPEN:

1. What's something you handle differently now than you did when you were younger?

REFLECT:

2. Read Genesis 44:12-17. How do the brothers react when the silver cup is found in Benjamin's sack? How does the choice Joseph offers them here mirror the choice they made in Genesis 37:26-28?

3. Read Genesis 44:30-34. How does Judah's speech reveal the changes in his character since his early life? How does it reveal God's providence in transforming who we are, rather than simply focusing on what happens to us?

4. Read Romans 5:3-4. Why do you think Paul portrays enduring challenges as a way to develop character rather than simply demonstrate it? In Genesis 44, Judah pledged his life to bring Benjamin back. How would keeping that promise help form his character?

APPLY:

5. What is an area where you are tempted to say, "That's just how I am"? What would it look like to take steps to allow God to change your heart in this area?

6. Joseph was willing to believe that the ones who had betrayed him had truly changed. Is there a relationship in your life where you might make room for reconciliation? How can you stay open to the possibility that God is changing someone without ignoring the past?

7. In a difficulty you're facing now, what could you allow God to grow in you even before your circumstances change? As a group, how can we support one another this week as difficult situations test our faith?

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