



Life Group
Sermon Guide Questions
5 JULY 2026



Read Genesis 45:1-11, 50:15-20

1) Joseph tells his brothers, "Do not be distressed...for God sent me before you to preserve life" (vv. 5–8). How was Joseph able to see God's hand at work through such painful events? What does this teach us about God's sovereignty?

2) **Read Genesis 50:15–20:** Joseph says, "You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good." What does this verse teach us about both human responsibility and God's purposes? Can you think of a time when you later saw God bring good out of a difficult situation?

3) Throughout Scripture we repeatedly encounter the words, "**But God.**" **Read one or two of these passages: Genesis 8:1; Psalm 73:26; Ephesians 2:1–5; 1 Corinthians 10:13.** What do these passages have in common? How does remembering "But God" change the way we face trials?

Where Joy Comes From

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4) The sermon contrasted **circumstantial joy** with **lasting joy in God**. **Read Habakkuk 3:17–18**. How was Habakkuk able to rejoice even when everything around him was falling apart? What are some circumstances we are tempted to build our joy upon instead of God?

5) **Read Psalm 16:11 and Psalm 43:4**: What do these verses say is the true source of joy? How is joy in God's presence different from happiness that depends on circumstances?

6) Joseph's brothers believed that removing Joseph would make their lives better, but their sin ultimately produced years of guilt and sorrow. What are some "deceitful desires" (Ephesians 4:22) that promise happiness but fail to deliver? Why are these substitutes so attractive?

7) **Read John 16:21–22, 33**: Jesus never promises a life without suffering, yet He tells His disciples to take heart because He has overcome the world. How can Christians experience joy and sorrow at the same time? What does Jesus offer that the world cannot?

8) Looking ahead to this coming week, where do you most need to remember the words **"But God"**?

Share one challenge you are facing and pray together that God would help you find your joy in His goodness, His presence, and His sovereign work rather than in changing circumstances.

