

**LEADER'S GUIDE**

**LIVING WITH  
FAITH  
IN TRYING  
TIMES**

***LOOKING AT THE FAITH OF  
THOSE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT***

Life Group Leader Guide

# **LIVING WITH FAITH IN TRYING TIMES**

LEARNING TO LIVE A LIFE OF FAITH THROUGH OLD TESTAMENT CHARACTERS

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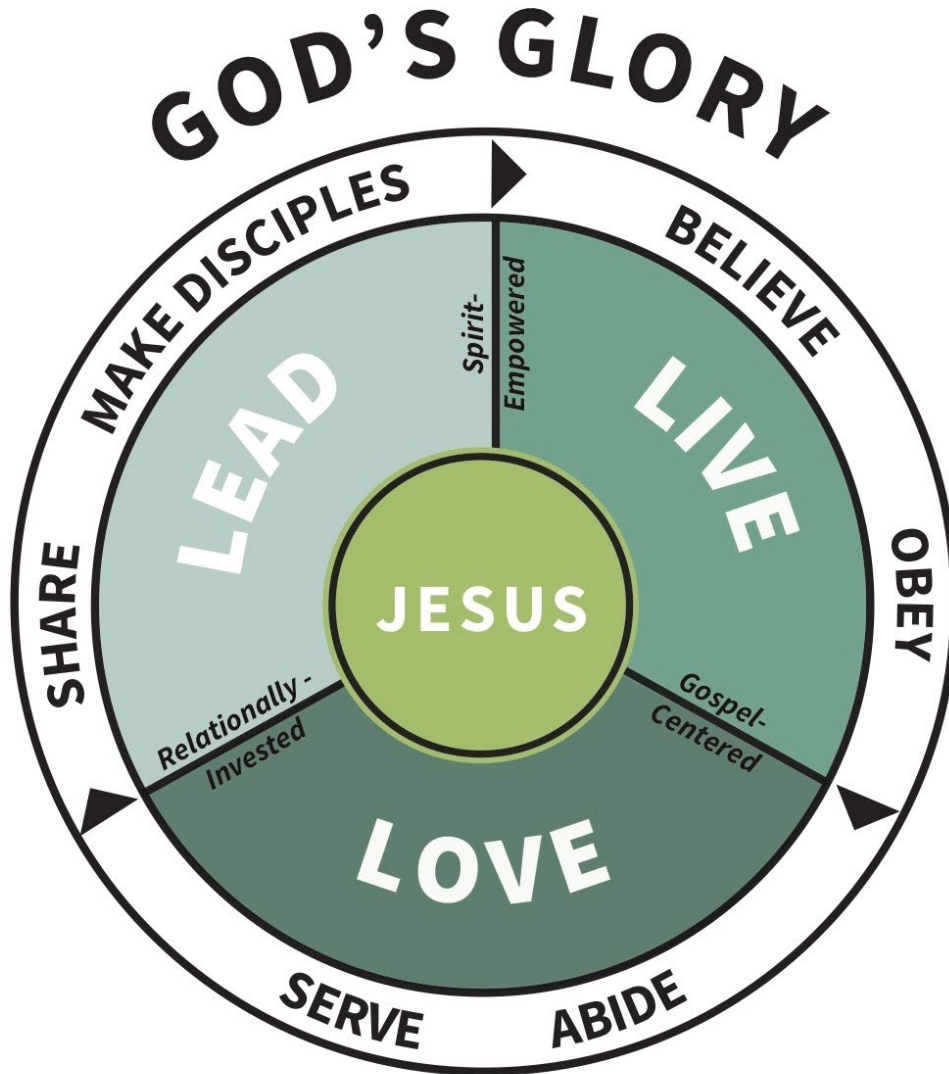
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# PROFILE OF A DISCIPLE





# LIFEGROUP LEADER'S GUIDE

## *Introduction*

Thank you so much for choosing to serve as a Life Group leader. **A life group is a small community that seeks to LIVE, LOVE, and LEAD like Jesus through authentic relationships.** You're leading people to put their faith into action each week. God can and will use you in powerful ways as you lead your friends and neighbors into Christ-centered community - thank you for making yourself available to our good God for His kingdom building work.

Before we dive into some helpful hints and "how to's", let's take a look at the "why's" for this curriculum - Living with Faith in Trying Times. **This study focuses on a handful of characters from the Old Testament, with the goal of looking at and learning from their examples of faith during difficult circumstances.** In John 16:33, Jesus told us two lasting truths. The first truth is that in this world we will have trouble - God is not shy about the fact that this world will not be easy. The second truth is the best of the two - Jesus tells us to take heart, for He has overcome the world. That truth never changes, and holding onto faith in God can help us through the troubles in life. That's our prayer for this curriculum - that we would learn from these examples to hold onto the solid truth of God in our ever-changing world. May you and your group be blessed as you follow their examples of faith.

Below are some reminders for leading your Life Group through this curriculum. A curriculum is a guide, not a strict template that must be followed to a tee. It is good to have structure and consistency, however make sure you prayerfully allow room for the Holy Spirit to lead each of your times together as a group. **Life Groups are purposed to put faith into action and see lives transformed. The most important part of each meeting is not what people know, but how they grow - applying God's truths to real life.**

**Don't forget to take regular breaks from this curriculum to go out and serve our community, have a neighborhood BBQ and invite friends, attend a concert or community event, etc.**





## WARM-UP

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As you begin your life group, you have a couple of options for how to get started.

- 1. ASK.** Ask your group about last week's application (maybe review last week's conversation), then listen for how God has been at work in people's lives. This is also a great opportunity to review last week's story.
- 2. ICEBREAKERS.** This is a fun or sometimes serious question that opens up conversation, helps you all learn something new about one another, and/or relates to the theme in the passage. Feel free to come up with your own! Give everyone a chance to engage, but don't let it take too long. It's just a warm-up.
- 3. PRAY.** Don't forget this as you begin your time together. Prayer is powerful.



## STORYTELLING

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In this section, you'll find a summary of the text you're about to go over. Feel free to read this (try not to stare down at the page the whole time) or read the text for yourself and tell the story in your own words! **Remember, your job is to just tell the story, not to teach on any particular points.**

Next, have everyone bring out their Bibles and read the passage together. Then rebuild the story, asking questions like, "Then what happened?" and "Who were the characters in this story?" This ensures that everyone is involved and starting on the same page — something especially important to any new or non-believers in your group.



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

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In this section, you'll find questions to help your group discuss the passage. The questions are separated into two sections: core questions and more questions. **The core questions are the questions that can be used for any passage. We recommend that you use these questions every time that you meet.** The more questions are there as a tool to help you continue the discussion in particular directions to follow where your group is going. Feel free to come up with your own "more questions" before your group or as the Holy Spirit leads you

in the discussion itself. **Remember, try to lead your group from head-questions (facts) to heart-questions (emotions and faith), then to hands-questions (application).**



## APPLICATION

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These are extremely important questions for your group. These questions not only can stimulate great discussion and prompt your group members into action, they can also allow you to see into a person's heart in significant ways.

There are two ways to ask life application questions: (a) Use story specific questions provided in the guide, or (b) Form your own questions based on comments made during the discussion time.

**These life application questions are the most important, because this is where people put their faith into action.**



## WRAP-UP

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**As you close your time together, lead the members of your group to come to an action-based conclusion.** What is a take-away that God could be putting on your hearts? How can they put their faith into action? How can we live differently and become more like Christ? Then follow-up each week by asking how things went.

Lastly, **conclude your group time with prayer.** Ask for people's prayer requests and pray for God to continue to teach you about this passage throughout the week.

## **SOME HELPFUL TIPS:**

- **Do not skip the story rebuild or questions sections.** They are intended to get everyone on the same page and help the discussion gradually become more serious. That being said, feel free to come up with your own questions within these sections.

- **Don't be afraid of the "awkward silences."** Let the seconds pass by in these times — some great comments can come out of these moments.

- **Manage your discussion time well to ALWAYS arrive at the application question(s)** with at least 15 minutes of discussion time left. It is intended to be the most meaningful time of the group meeting.

- **Make sure your group knows that these discussions take place in a safe environment** where no one will attack them for having different perspectives or experiences. Keep an eye on the dynamics of the group so that everyone feels safe sharing personal thoughts and experiences with others.

- **Enjoy your time in life group together - God can use a community of believers powerfully for His glory, your growth, and the benefit of the community around you. Lean into that and enjoy the ride of this year!**



# FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL

## ABRAHAM

*Genesis 12:1-9*



### WARM-UP

- 1. ASK.** Welcome back to Life Group! Does everyone know each other? Do introductions. Make sure to introduce yourself and cast vision for what a life group is: a small community seeking to live, love, and lead like Jesus through authentic relationships. The goal is for you all to be part of a life transforming, missional, and multiplying movement that is Spirit-empowered, Gospel-centered, and relationally invested to the glory of God.
- 2. ICEBREAKER.** In a couple of sentences, how was everyone's summer?
- 3. PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

Our study begins with a 75 year-old man named Abram, who was a descendant of Noah's son Shem. Abram's wife Sarai was barren, and they were living where their family had been settled for some time. Our passage begins with the Lord saying to Abram, "Go from your country to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and curse those who dishonor you, and through you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

After hearing this, Abram did as the Lord had told him. He took his wife, his nephew, and all their people and possessions, and set out. When they got to the land of Canaan and were in a place called Shechem, the Lord told Abram, "I will give this land to your descendants." So Abram built an altar there, where the Lord had appeared to him. They then continued to travel through the land. Abram built one more altar to the Lord between Bethel and Ai, and called upon the Lord's name there. They then continued to travel, and were heading toward the Negeb.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL

*Genesis 12:1-9*



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- What does God command and promise Abraham?
- What might have been his initial fears and reservations?
- What are things that hinder you from consistently trusting in God's promises?
- Describe Abraham's response to God's call. (vv. 4-6)
- Why do you think God reassured Abram of his promise when he arrived at Canaan?
- What are ways that God reassures you as you follow Him?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# LIVING IN GOD'S CALL

## ABRAM

*Genesis 13:1-18*



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What's the story that goes with your biggest move from one place to another?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

After sojourning in Egypt to avoid a famine, Abram and his family returned to the place where he had built the altar between Bethel and Ai. Between Abram and Lot, they had too many people and livestock to live in the same area, and it was causing tension between their herdsman. Abram suggested that they split up, and offered Lot the choice of direction to go. Lot chose to go to the lush Jordan Valley, and headed east where he settled near Sodom, a city of wicked men. Abram settled in the land of Canaan.

After Lot had left, the Lord told Abram to lift up his eyes and look in each direction. God promised that all the land that Abram saw would be given to his offspring forever, and that God would make Abram's offspring too numerous to count. God then said, "Arise, and walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I will give it to you." Abram moved his tent and settled by the oaks of Mamre, at Hebron, and built an altar to the Lord there.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# LIVING IN GOD'S CALL

*Genesis 13:1-18*



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- What do you think about Abram's actions in this story?
- What do we learn about Lot in this passage?
- How do you think you would have responded to this situation?
- What do you find encouraging about this story?
- How do you think you would respond to God speaking these words to you?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?



# GOD'S COVENANT

## ABRAHAM

*GENESIS 15:1-21*



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What is a story that happened to you or someone you know that sounds fake but it's not?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

After rescuing his nephew Lot from enemies, and being celebrated for his victory, God came to Abram in a vision. He told Abram that He was his shield, and that his reward would be very great. Abram replied, "Lord, I still don't have any offspring. I'm going to have to have a substitute heir from my household." God reassured Abram, saying, "You will have a son. Look at how many stars there are - that is how many offspring you shall have." Abram believed God, and this counted as righteousness.

The Lord told Abram, "I am the one that brought you to this land to possess it." And Abram said, "How am I to possess it?" God responded by telling Abram to get a heifer, a goat, a ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon. He brought them, and cut all but the birds in half and laid the halves across from one another. As the sun went down, Abram fell into a deep sleep. Then the Lord said, "Your offspring will be sojourners and servants who suffer in another land for many years. But I will judge the nation that they serve, and they shall come out of that experience rich. You shall live a long time and die in peace. And your offspring will come back in the fourth generation." When it was dark, a smoking fire pot and flaming torch passed between the pieces as God made a covenant with Abram promising to give his offspring the land.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# GOD'S COVENANT

GENESIS 15:1-21



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- How do you think you would have reacted to God if you were in Abram's shoes? Why?
- What can we learn about Abram's relationship with God through his reaction?
- What do you know about this sort of covenant?
- Do any of your Bibles have helpful information in the footnotes that could clarify this passage?
- Why is it significant that God makes a covenant with Abram?
- What do you know about the rest of the story? Did it unfold as God said that it would?
- How would an experience like this affect your faith?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# COVENANT REMINDERS

## ABRAHAM

*GENESIS 17:1-21*



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** How do you remind yourself about important things so you don't forget them?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to him and reminded him of his covenant with him. God said to Abram, “Your name will no longer be Abram, but Abraham - which means father of a multitude. I will make you the father of nations, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant with all your offspring, and I will be their God. You shall keep my covenant, you and all your offspring, Every male in your family shall be circumcised as a sign of the covenant between you and me. And my covenant shall be an everlasting covenant. Any uncircumcised male will be cut off from his people.”

God continued to tell Abraham, “Your wife Sarai will now be called Sarah. I will bless her, and she shall become nations.” Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, saying to himself, “Will my ninety year-old wife really have a child?” And turning to the Lord he said, “May Ishmael live long before you!” God said, “No, that isn't what I mean. Sarah will bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my everlasting covenant with him, and his offspring after him. I will also bless Ishmael, and he shall father a great nation. But my covenant will be established with Isaac, who will be born around this time of year next year.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# COVENANT REMINDERS

GENESIS 17:1-21



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- What do you find meaningful about this passage?
- Why do you think that God emphasizes the covenant so many times in these verses?
- What is so important about having a covenant reminder?
- How would you describe Abraham's reaction to God's promise?
- Why is this covenant so important?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# FAITH TESTED

## ABRAHAM

*Genesis 22:1-19*



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What's the story behind one of your worst or funniest test experiences?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

God gave Abraham and Sarah their promised son, and many years later, God tested Abraham. God called out to Abraham, and he said, "Here I am." God then said, "Take your son Isaac, your only son whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on the mountain that I will show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and with a donkey, two helpers, and Isaac, they set out for the land of Moriah. On the third day of the trip, Abraham saw the place for the sacrifice from afar. Leaving the donkey and two helpers, Isaac and Abraham left for the place of the sacrifice. Isaac carried the wood for the offering, and Abraham carried the flame. Isaac asked his dad, "We have wood and fire - where is the lamb for the offering?" Abraham replied, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son."

When they got to the place, they built the altar and laid the wood in order. Then Abraham bound Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. As Abraham reached out his hand with a knife to kill his son, an Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, saying "Do not lay your hand on the boy. Now I know that you fear God, since you haven't withheld your son, your only son, from me." And as Abraham lifted his eyes and saw a ram caught in the thicket to offer as a sacrifice instead. Abraham named that place, "The Lord will provide."

An Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, saying "Because you have not withheld your only son, I will surely bless you, and in your offspring all the nations of the earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." Abraham returned to his young men, and they went to Beersheba where they lived.

## FAITH TESTED

*Genesis 22:1-19*

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**



### DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

#### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

#### MORE QUESTIONS:

- Why did Abraham take his son to the altar?
- What do you learn about Abraham from this story?
- What do you think Isaac felt as he walked with his father?
- What did God desire from Abraham?
- What did Isaac learn from this experience?
- Where do you sense God is testing you now? How are you doing with the test? What are you learning from it?
- What have you learned from Abraham's story over the last few weeks?



### APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



### WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# GOD'S PROMISE AND BROTHERLY BETRAYAL

## JOSEPH

GENESIS 37:1-28



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** When you were a child, what did you want to be when you grew up?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

Joseph was a young man who grew up in a family of many brothers. His father, Jacob, now called Israel, loved Joseph more than any of his other sons. Joseph brought a bad report about his brothers to his father after pasturing the flock with them. Joseph's brothers saw their father's favoritism towards him and grew to hate him and were unkind about him.

Joseph had a dream and told his brothers about it. He told them, "Behold, we were gathering bundles of wheat, and my bundle stood up and your bundles gathered around and bowed to mine." His brothers couldn't believe that Joseph was supposed to rule over them, and they hated him even more because of his words. Later, Joseph had another dream, and said, "The sun, moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." But after he told his family, his father rebuked him, saying, "Will your mother, brothers, and I really come bow before you?" Even after the rebuke, his father kept this dream in mind.

His brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem, and Israel said to Joseph, "I'm going to send you to your brothers. Bring back word on how they are doing." After looking for them, Joseph found them at Dothan. His brothers saw him coming from afar, and before he got to them, they conspired to kill him. "Let's kill him and throw him into a pit and let everyone think that a wild animal ate him." But Rueben said, "Don't shed any blood, just leave him in a pit," because he was planning to rescue him later. When Joseph got to his brothers, they took his robe and threw him in a pit. Then they sat down to eat. A caravan of Ishmaelites on their way to Egypt came by, and Judah got an idea and told his brothers, "Killing our brother does us no good - let's sell him to traders instead of having his blood on our hands." Then Midianite traders came by, and they lifted Joseph out of the pit and sold him for 20 shekels of silver. The traders took Joseph to Egypt.

# GOD'S PROMISE AND BROTHERLY BETRAYAL

GENESIS 37:1-28

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- What do you find significant about Joseph's dreams?
- How do you account for why Joseph's brothers did what they did?
- Growing up, how well did you get along with your brothers and sisters? Who was the baby of the family? How was that person treated?
- How has your relationship changed with your siblings now that you are older? What do you attribute the change to?
- What is one of your biggest regrets so far in life?
- What would it look like for you to surrender that to Christ?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?



# GOD'S FAITHFULNESS, HUMANITY'S FAILINGS

## JOSEPH

*Genesis 39: 1-23*



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do their challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** Are you a rule follower or a rule breaker? Why do you think that is?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

When Joseph got to Egypt, he was bought by an officer of Pharaoh named Potiphar. The Lord was with Joseph, and he had great success due to the Lord's presence. His master Potiphar saw this, and put him in charge of everything that he had. From that time, the Lord blessed Potiphar's house for Joseph's sake.

Joseph was very handsome, and Potiphar's wife noticed and propositioned him. But Joseph refused, and said that, "My master has put me in charge of everything here, and hasn't kept anything from me, except you - because you're his wife. How could I do this wickedness and sin against God?" She continued to ask Joseph to lie with her, and he kept refusing.

But one day, when Joseph got to the house to work, none of the men of the house were there. Potiphar's wife grabbed Joseph's garment and said, "Lie with me." But Joseph left his garment in her hand and fled the house. As soon as she realized that she had his garment in her hand, she called to the men of her household and lied about the events to frame Joseph. She then waited for Potiphar to get home, and told him the same story.

When Potiphar heard the story from his wife, he put Joseph in prison, and left him where the king's prisoners were confined. But the Lord continued to be with Joseph, and gave him favor in the sight of the prison keeper. And the prison keeper put Joseph in charge of all the prisoners. Since the Lord was with him, everything that Joseph did went well.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# GOD'S FAITHFULNESS, HUMANITY'S FAILINGS

*Genesis 39:1-23*



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- In what job or school setting have you enjoyed the most success?
- Why do you think God allowed this to happen?
- When are you most tempted?
- What characterized the temptation?
- What characterized Joseph's response to the temptation?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# PHARAOH NEEDS HELP, GOD PROVIDES

## JOSEPH

GENESIS 41:9-32



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What is a story from your life that involves coincidence/mistaken identity?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

After 2 years in prison, Pharaoh had a dream that nobody could interpret. Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “I remember that I have failed. When I was in prison for a time, the baker and I both had a dream on the same night, and a young Hebrew man was able to interpret our dreams for us. And he interpreted them correctly.”

Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph. He told Joseph, “I had a dream, and nobody can interpret it for me. I heard that you can interpret it.” Joseph told Pharaoh, “It is not me - but God can tell Pharaoh an answer.” Pharaoh then told him about his dream, saying, “I was standing in the banks of the Nile. Seven plump cows came up out of the Nile and fed on the reed grass. Then, seven extremely thin cows came up and ate the seven plump cows. Then I awoke. I also saw seven ears of grain growing on one stalk, full and good. And then seven ears that were blighted and withered, sprouted after them and consumed the good ears.”

Then Joseph told Pharaoh, “Both of these dreams are the same thing. God has revealed to you what he is about to do. The cows and the ears are both representing seven years each - seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. The famine will consume the land, and the plenty that came before it will be completely changed. The doubling of your dreams means that this is certain, and God will shortly bring it about.”

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# PHAROAH NEEDS HELP, GOD PROVIDES

GENESIS 41:9-32



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- How do you think you would feel if you were in Joseph's shoes?
- What if you were in Pharaoh's shoes?
- If God revealed the future to you in a dream, how do you think you would respond?  
How would that change you?
- How do you see Joseph glorifying God in this passage? What sort of model does that set for us as believers today?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# FROM INMATE TO SECOND IN COMMAND

## JOSEPH

GENESIS 41:33-57



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** If you could go anywhere in the world, where would you visit?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

Joseph continued to share with Pharaoh after interpreting his dream. “Therefore, you should select a wise man, and put him in charge of all the land. You should also appoint overseers over the land, and save one fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven years of plenty. And then store up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities and let them keep it. That food shall be a reserve for all the land so that Egypt will not perish during the famine.”

This idea was pleasing to Pharaoh, and turning to his servants he said, “Is there any man like this in Egypt?” Turning to Joseph, he continued, “Since God has shown you all of this, there is no one as wise as you. You shall be over my house, and all of my people will be under your command. Only I will be above you. I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” Then Pharaoh gave Joseph his signet ring, and clothed him in fine garments and jewelry. Pharaoh resolved to not make any action without Joseph’s consent, and he gave him a wife as well.

Joseph was thirty years old when he began to work for the Pharaoh. During the seven years of plenty, he gathered up all the food and saved in great abundance. Before the famine came, Joseph had two sons. When the years of famine began, it was in all the land of Egypt. And when all the people were famished, they cried to Pharaoh for bread. And Pharaoh sent them all to Joseph.

When the famine had spread all over the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians. The rest of the world came to Egypt for grain as well, because the famine was severe everywhere.

# FROM INMATE TO SECOND IN COMMAND

GENESIS 41: 33-57

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- As the story unfolds, what can we learn from Joseph's example?
- How do you see God's wisdom at work in this story?
- How do you see God's favor at work in this story?
- How would you feel if you went from inmate to second in command?
- Have you seen God's hand at work in your own life? What was the story? Did that change the way you lived? Does it still?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# DREAMS FROM YOUTH FULFILLED

## JOSEPH

GENESIS 42:29-38; 43:11-34



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What is your favorite meal?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

Israel had heard that there was grain in Egypt, and so he sent all of his sons except the youngest one to buy some. He was afraid to send young Benjamin, after losing Joseph. On their way home, they found that their money had been returned in each of their sacks.

When they got home to their father in the land of Canaan, they told Israel all that had happened. “The man in charge of the land spoke roughly to us, and accused us of being spies. We told him that we were honest men, and that we have two other brothers - one who is no more and one at home with our father. The lord of the land then told us to prove that we are honest by leaving one of our brothers there, and bringing our youngest brother back to him.” Israel was bereaved by this, having lost Joseph and now Simeon was gone. Reuben told him to trust Benjamin to his care, but Joseph was unwilling to let him go.

After they had eaten all the grain, Israel their father told them that since they had to go again, they should take gifts and double the money with them. “Take also your brother, and go to the man. May God grant you mercy.” The men did as their father said, and stood before Joseph. When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he told the steward of his house to bring the men in and prepare a meal. The steward did as he was told. The men were afraid when they were brought to Joseph’s house, thinking he was going to capture them because of the returned money. They spoke to the steward about it, and he said that he had received their money, so God must have returned it. Then he brought Simeon out to them.

When Joseph came home, they gave him the present that they had brought him. He asked about their welfare and the health of their father. He then saw his brother Benjamin, and asked, “Is this your youngest brother? May God be gracious to you!” Joseph was overwhelmed with emotion and left the room to compose himself. When he came back, the

## DREAMS OF YOUTH FULFILLED

GENESIS 42:29-38; 43:11-34

food was served, and sitting as was customary at the time, portions from Joseph's table were given to his brothers. He gave five times the portion to Benjamin as to the others.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**



### DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

#### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

#### MORE QUESTIONS:

- How would you feel if you were in Israel the father's shoes?
- What about if you were in Simeon's shoes?
- Finally, what do you think Joseph would be going through?
- How do you see God's faithfulness at work in this passage?
- What do you find most incredible about these passages? Why?
- How do you see faith exercised by these Bible characters? In what ways can we be inspired by their examples?



### APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



### WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?



# BROTHERS TESTED, BROTHERS REUNITED

## JOSEPH

GENESIS 44:1 - 45:10



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What is the story behind your favorite childhood gift?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

After their meal together, Joseph commanded the steward of his house to fill his brother's sacks with food and the money they had paid for grain with. He also told him to put his silver cup in the youngest brother's sack.

The next morning, the men left with their donkeys. Joseph told his steward to catch up to them and say, "Why did you repay evil for good?" The brothers said, "Why does my lord speak these words? The money we have is only what we brought to you from the land of Canaan. If you find any stolen goods with us, the thief will die and we will become servants." The steward said, "Let it be as you say." Each man quickly opened his sack, and the cup was found in Benjamin's. All of the brothers were distraught as they returned to Joseph's house.

Joseph asked them, "What have you done?" and Judah said, "What can we say? How can we speak for ourselves? We will all be your servants." Joseph replied, "Only the thief needs to stay as my servant. The rest of you can return to your father." Judah responded by telling Joseph that their father wouldn't survive the shock of losing Benjamin. "I vowed to my father that I would bring him back, if I don't, I will bear the guilt all of my life. Keep me instead, and let the boy go back with the others."

At this moment Joseph couldn't control his reaction, and sent all of his servants away. Then he told them that he was their brother, Joseph. He asked them, "Is our father still alive?" But they couldn't answer him because they were so distraught that he was their brother. Joseph told them, "Come near to me, please. Don't be upset for what you did, for God sent me here to preserve life. There are still five years of famine left. Go get our father, and tell him that I'm Joseph and that you are coming to live near me."

# BROTHERS TESTED, BROTHERS REUNITED

GENESIS 44:1 - 45:10

Read through the passage as a group.

Rebuild the story as a group.



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- Look at this story from Judah's perspective - how do you think he saw this situation? What would you feel in his situation?
- How do you see having strong individual character at play in this story?
- What can that tell us about how people can grow over a lifetime?
- How has God transformed you over your lifetime?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# FAITH FILLED PERSPECTIVE & RECONCILIATION

## JOSEPH

GENESIS 50:15-26



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What is your favorite time of day and why?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

Years after our last passage, Israel died. Joseph's brothers were worried that Joseph's anger would be kindled against them. So they sent a message to Joseph saying, "Before he died, our father requested that you forgive us our transgressions and evil against you. And now, please do forgive us."

Joseph wept at these words, and his brothers came and fell down before him saying, "We are your servants." But Joseph told them, "Don't be afraid, do I act for God? You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to save many lives. I will provide for you and your families."

Joseph and his brothers remained in Egypt, and Joseph lived long enough to see more generations born. When it was time for him to die, Joseph told his brothers, "My time is up - but God will bring you out of this land to the land that he promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob." Then Joseph asked his brothers to promise to take his bones with them when God does take them to their land. Joseph was 110 years old when he died.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# FAITH FILLED PERSPECTIVE AND RECONCILIATION

GENESIS 50:15-26



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- How do you see God's faithfulness showing up in this passage?
- How would it transform your life to see it through the same lens that Joseph uses?
- Reflecting on the past few weeks, what can we learn from Joseph's example of holding onto faith?
- What specific lesson will you remember from our study of Joseph?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# PRAYING IN PAIN

## HANNAH

1 SAMUEL 1:1-20



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What do you usually do when you are in pain or upset?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

There was a man named Elkanah, who had two wives. Hannah was his first wife, and she had no children. Peninah was his second wife, and she had children. Every year, they would go up from their city to Shiloh as a family to offer sacrifices. On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to Peninah, and all her sons and daughters. But he would give Hannah a double sacrifice, because he loved her even though she had no children. Each year, Peninah wasn't kind to Hannah about her lack of children, and Hannah would weep and would not eat. Elkanah asked her, "Why are you sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

After they had eaten in Shiloh, Hannah rose. Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the Lord. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord as she wept. And she vowed to God that if he would give her a son, that she would commit her son to the Lord all the days of his life.

As she continued to pray, Eli the priest watched her and thought that she was drunk. He told her, "Put your wine away from you." But Hannah answered him, "I haven't been drinking. I'm pouring my heart out to God." Eli answered her, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant your petition." She thanked him and asked him to remember her in prayer. Then Hannah left and went to eat with her family.

The family rose early in the morning, worshiped before the Lord, and then returned to their house. And God remembered Hannah's prayer, and she bore a son and she called him Samuel, because she had asked for him from the Lord.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# PRAYING IN PAIN

*1 Samuel 1:1-20*



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- What can we learn from each character in the story? Elkanah? Hannah? Peninah? Eli?
- Have you experienced God working through a time of despair? Would you be willing to share about it?
- Stories in the Bible of barren women given children by God can encourage us in our “impossible” situations. How is this story relevant to your story?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# FAITHFUL IN ANSWERED PRAYER

## HANNAH

*1 SAMUEL 1: 21-2:11*



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What is your favorite movie and why?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

Elkanah and his family were going to offer their yearly sacrifice, but Hannah did not go with them. She told her husband, “As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may dwell in the presence of the Lord forever.” Elkanah responded, “Do what seems best to you, and may the Lord establish his word.” When Hannah had weaned Samuel, she took Samuel and supplies for a sacrifice to Shiloh. She brought Samuel to Eli, and said, “I am the woman who was here earlier, praying to the Lord to grant my petition. He did, and therefore I have dedicated him to the Lord.” Then they worshiped God there.

Hannah prayed a lengthy and beautiful prayer of worship and praise to God. Then Elkanah went home, and the boy was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli the priest.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# FAITHFUL IN ANSWERED PRAYER

1 SAMUEL 1:21-2:11



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- How do you see Hannah being faithful to God in this passage?
- What can we learn from Hannah's example of prayer?
- What stands out to you about her prayer to God?
- What do your prayers tend to look like? How are they similar to Hannah's? How are they different?
- What would your life look like if you followed Hannah's example?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?



# HEARING AND OBEYING GOD'S VOICE

## SAMUEL

*1 Samuel 3:1-21*



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** Are you an early bird or a night owl?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

The boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord in the presence of Eli. This was at a time when the revelation of the Lord was very rare in those days. One night, Eli, who had grown old and his eyesight had faded, was sound asleep. It was well before dawn, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord. Then the Lord called Samuel, and he said, "Here I am!" and ran to Eli because he thought that it was Eli who had called him. But Eli said, "I didn't call for you - lie down."

Then the Lord called again, and Samuel again responded with "Here I am!" and ran to Eli. Eli again said, "It wasn't me. Go lie down again." This was all before Samuel had any revelation from the Lord. The Lord called Samuel a third time, and he went to Eli again, saying, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go lie down, and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place again.

The Lord came and stood, calling, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel responded, "Speak, for your servant hears." Then the Lord said, "Behold, I am about to do something in Israel that will get everyone's attention. I warned Eli this was coming for his household, for he didn't stop his sons from blaspheming me when he knew what they were doing."

Samuel waited until the next morning, then opened the doors of the house of the Lord. And Samuel was afraid to tell Eli what God had told him. Eli called for Samuel and asked him what the Lord had told him. "Don't hide anything from me," he told him. So Samuel told him all that he had heard from the Lord. Eli responded with, "Let the Lord do what seems good to him."

## HEARING AND OBEYING GOD'S VOICE

*1 Samuel 3:1-21*

Samuel continued to grow, and the Lord was with Him. All of the nation of Israel knew that he was a prophet of the Lord. God continued to appear at Shiloh and reveal his word to Shiloh.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**



### DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

#### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

#### MORE QUESTIONS:

- In what ways does God speak to us today?
- Why do you think Samuel has difficulty discerning God's voice from Eli's (vv. 4-8)?
- How does Samuel's openness to hear from God compare with yours?
- How do you know when you're just hearing the Word of God and not receiving the Word of God?
- When are you most tempted to hide God's word from others?
- How does Samuel's obedience affect his relationship to God and his future ministry (vv. 19-21)?
- What is the greatest obstacle that prevents you from hearing God's voice?



### APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



### WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# SEEING WITH GOD'S EYES

## SAMUEL

1 SAMUEL 16:1-13



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What was the worst style choice that you ever made?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

After Saul had been rejected as king by the Lord, he asked Samuel, “How long will you be in grief over Saul? fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided a king from one of his sons.” Samuel asked, “How can I go? If Saul hears of this, he will kill me.” The Lord then told Samuel to take a heifer with him, and say that he was going to sacrifice to the Lord. “Invite Jesse to go with you, and I will show you what you shall do. And you will anoint for me the one whom I will show you.”

Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and when he got to Bethlehem, the city elders asked if he came peaceably? “Yes,” replied Samuel, “I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come with me.” And he invited Jesse and his sons to join them.

When they came, Samuel saw one of the sons and thought, “Surely, that’s him! He looks like a king.” But the Lord told Samuel, “Don’t focus on his appearance, for I am focused on his heart.” One by one, seven of Jesse’s sons came before Samuel, and the Lord didn’t choose any of them. Samuel then asked, “Are all of your sons here?” Jesse told him that the youngest was keeping the sheep. And Samuel said, “Send for him.” When David got there, Samuel saw that he was whom God had chosen. Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David and was with him from that day forward.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

## SEEING WITH GOD'S EYES

*1 Samuel 16:1-13*



### DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

#### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

#### MORE QUESTIONS:

- What do you think it would have been like to be one of Jesse's other sons in this moment?
- Samuel was an experienced leader, and yet still missed seeing David as God's chosen man. In what ways do you find yourself evaluating outward appearances rather than the heart?
- Although Saul had failed as king and lost control of the kingdom, the ultimate King never does. How does that apply in the context of the present world? What about in the church? How does the truth of Jesus never failing affect your personal life?



### APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



### WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# LAMENT AND PRAYER AS ACTS OF FAITH

## NEHEMIAH

*NEHEMIAH 1:1-11*



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** Where is the farthest flung place you have traveled to?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

Nehemiah is in the Persian capital of Susa when a brother and some other men from Judah come to visit and give a report of the Jews living in Jerusalem. The report is filled with bad news, that the Jewish remnants are in trouble and the wall of Jerusalem is in shambles.

Nehemiah responds with deep grief by fasting and prayer. In his prayer he claims attributes of God's character and says he is praying on behalf of the people. Nehemiah admits that they have behaved poorly, they have disobeyed. Nehemiah goes on to remind God that he promised to gather all the people if they returned to Him. That the people are his servants who have been redeemed by his strength. Nehemiah closes his prayer with pleas for favor and success in what he is about to do.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# LAMENT AND PRAYER AS ACTS OF FAITH

NEHEMIAH 1:1-11



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- What do we learn about Nehemiah from this passage?
- Are you concerned about your Christian brothers and sisters in remote places as Nehemiah was for his fellow Jews in a faraway town?
- What is your typical response to difficult news or situations? How does that compare to Nehemiah's response?
- What is the significance of Jerusalem's broken-down walls and burnt gates?
- How does the physical state of Jerusalem reflect the Jewish people?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# PREPARATIONS MADE WITH FAITH

## NEHEMIAH

NEHEMIAH 2:1-20



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What's the most recent movie/tv show that you have watched?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

When Nehemiah was bringing King Artaxerxes his wine, the king noticed that Nehemiah looked sad. He had never looked sad in the presence of the king before. King Artaxerxes asked Nehemiah, “Why do you look so downtrodden?” Nehemiah responded by saying, “Long live the King! I am sad because my home city is in ruins.” The king asked, “What do you want?” Nehemiah took a moment to pray to God, and then said, “If it pleases you, let me return to Judah where my family is buried so that I can rebuild it.” With the queen sitting next to him, the king asked, “How long will you be gone?” Nehemiah gave him a time and the king approved. Then Nehemiah asked the king for orders that gave him safe passage and supplies for the building project. Because the hand of God was upon him, the king granted all that he had asked.

When Nehemiah had left, he met the governors across the river Euphrates and presented the letters the king had given him. When Sanballat the Horonite and Tobiah the Ammonite heard about Nehemiah’s plans to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem, they were wildly upset that he was trying to help the people of Israel.

Nehemiah went to Jerusalem and stayed for three days. He would get up with just a few men and ride around the walls at night, not sharing his plans with anyone else. He inspected the walls and the gates that were burned down. When he finally did tell the nobles and leaders of Jerusalem, he said, “Look at the destroyed walls and gates - we should rebuild them.” He also shared that he had the king’s support for the project. They agreed and got ready to get to work. When Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem heard about the project, they sneered at Nehemiah and the Israelites. But Nehemiah replied that it was none of their business, and that the God of heaven that they serve would ensure their success.

# PREPARATIONS MADE IN FAITH

NEHEMIAH 2:1-20

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- How do you see God going before Nehemiah?
- How does Nehemiah model strategy as he approaches the wall project?
- What can we learn from Nehemiah's example of holding onto God's word in the face of opposition?
- How do you think your actions would compare to Nehemiah's if you were in his shoes?
- Are you facing any situations that feel similar to Nehemiah's wall project right now?  
How does this story speak to your situation?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?



# BUILDING IN THE FACE OF ENEMIES

## NEHEMIAH

NEHEMIAH 4:1-23



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** If you had a theme song that played every time you entered a room, what would you want it to be?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

As each group in Jerusalem was working on different portions of the wall, Sanballat was wildly angry. He continued to jeer at the Jews, questioning whether they could finish the wall and poking fun at their efforts. “Are they going to create bricks out of nothing?” Tobiah joined him in the jeers, calling the wall too weak to hold the weight of a fox.

Nehemiah prayed to God, asking God to bring the ridicules of their enemies upon their own heads, and asking for them to be vanquished in battle. They kept building the wall, and they were so motivated that it was soon connected all the way around at half of its planned height. Their enemies continued to be angry about their progress and plotted against it, and the Jews prayed to God, and assigned people to protect them day and night. Word began to spread between the groups doing the building that they were in over their heads and they couldn’t finish the wall. Their enemies were plotting to come and kill them so they couldn’t finish their work, and they found out. Nehemiah had clans come with weapons for protection, and continued to remind the people of who their God is and who they would be fighting for. From then on, half of the men worked while the other half worked on the wall. Some people worked with a tool in one hand and a weapon in the other. They planned to have a trumpeter sound anywhere on the wall that needed support during an attack. Nehemiah reminded them, “Our God will fight for us.” They continued to work, and were dedicated day and night to the project, protecting and building.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# BUILDING IN THE FACE OF ENEMIES

NEHEMIAH 4:1-23



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- What can we learn about leadership from Nehemiah's example?
- How does this story emphasize God's role in this project?
- What does it look like to continue in faithfulness to the Lord in the face of adversity?  
What about when you are losing hope?
- Do you have any situations in your life right now that remind you of the wall building project?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# MISSION COMPLETED DUE TO GOD'S HELP

## NEHEMIAH

NEHEMIAH 6:1-16



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What's the weirdest food you've eaten?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

When Sanballat, Tobiah, and Geshem, along with other enemies, heard that Nehemiah had closed all the breaches in the wall, they asked him to come and meet them in a nearby valley. Nehemiah knew that they were plotting against him, so he sent word to them that he was doing a great work and he couldn't come down. "Why should the work stop just so I can come and see you?" They had this exchange four times, and on the fifth time, Sanballat sent an unsealed letter instead. The letter had a false report that the Jews were being led by Nehemiah to rebel and make him their king. Sanballat asked, "Don't you think we should talk about this?"

Nehemiah responded by saying that there was no truth in this, and that Sanballat had made it all up. They were trying to intimidate him into quitting, but instead Nehemiah turned to God and asked for the strength to carry on.

There was a second attempt to sabotage Nehemiah's reputation, and he recognized it immediately and refused to hide. Instead, he prayed against his enemies and continued on. The wall was finished in 52 days, and after their enemies saw this, they lost their nerve because they knew that God had been behind it.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# MISSION COMPLETED DUE TO GOD'S HELP

NEHEMIAH 6:1-16



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- How do you see godly wisdom at work in this passage?
- What can we learn about facing opponents from this story?
- What would your life look like if you rested in God's plan in the same way that Nehemiah does? What would change? What would stay the same?
- What is most striking to you about the entire story of Nehemiah that we have studied?
- What will you take away from Nehemiah's story after the past couple of weeks?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# BECOMING QUEEN

## ESTHER

*ESTHER 2:1-18*



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What is the most outlandish thing you've done to "improve" your looks?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

After Vashti has been deposed the search is on for a new queen for king Ahasuerus. Local beauties from every province in the kingdom are gathered together in the capital of Susa where they undergo a full year of beauty treatments. We learn that there is an exiled Jew, Mordecai, living in Susa who is raising his Uncle's daughter named Esther. She was very beautiful and was gathered with the other women for the future queen pageant. At Mordecai's instruction she does not divulge that she is Jewish. Esther is given seven girls to be her "maids-in-waiting" to attend to her during this year of preparation. And her devoted Uncle checks in on her every day.

After the year of beautification the women are then given one night to impress the king. In the tenth month, it is Esther's turn to go into the king. She asks advice of what to take with her for she has already found favor in the eyes of the overseers of the women's court. When king Ahasuerus sees Esther, he is blown away by her beauty and immediately names her the new queen replacing Vashti. A great feast is thrown in her honor.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# BECOMING QUEEN

*ESTHER 2:1-18*



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- Why does Mordecai command Esther to keep her heritage a secret?
- What was the goal of a year of beauty treatments for girls who were already deemed as beautiful?
- Who did Esther gain favor with and why was it important?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# A PLOT REVEALED AGAINST HER PEOPLE

## ESTHER

ESTHER 3:1-15



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** Have you ever had a longstanding rivalry? What started it?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

It has been several years since Esther was named queen and in the royal court, Haman has been elevated to the king's right-hand man. The king has commanded that all his servants at the king's gate should bow down to Haman as he enters. Mordecai is among those at the gate but he refuses to bow down to Haman. When the other servants question him and plead with him to comply, Mordecai says it is because he is a Jew. Mordecai's refusal to pay homage enrages Haman but he refrains from dealing with just Mordecai and decides to wipe out all of the Jewish people.

For a year, Haman bides his time looking for the best opportunity to approach the king. Haman tells the king about a people who are different from all the others in the kingdom, they have different laws and do not keep the king's laws, it is not in the best interest of the king to keep these people around; if the king will order their destruction he would personally pay a huge sum of money into the king's treasury to help make it happen. The king agrees and gives his signet ring to Haman to authorize the orders. A decree is sent to every province and land throughout the kingdom that on the 13th day of the last month that all the Jews should be killed and destroyed, their belongings plundered. After the proclamation goes out the king and Haman sit down for a drink while the city goes into crisis mode.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# A PLOT REVEALED AGAINST HER PEOPLE

*ESTHER 3:1-15*



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- Why is Haman so furious about Mordecai?
- If Mordecai makes it known that he is a Jew, why did he forbid Esther?
- How is king Ahasuerus so easily persuaded by Haman?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?



# USING HER POSITION FOR GOD'S PURPOSES

## ESTHER

*ESTHER 4:1-17*



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What is a situation from your life that took a great deal of courage?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

Mordecai is distraught after learning about the king's edict to annihilate the Jews. He wears sackcloth and ashes to signify his mourning and goes throughout the city weeping and wailing. Many Jews are doing the same in the provinces throughout the kingdom when they heard the edict. Esther hears of Mordecai's distress and sends clothes and inquiries into what has caused his suffering.

Mordecai sends a message to Esther with a copy of the edict and a plea to go to the king and beg for mercy for the Jewish people. Esther responds that she can't, everyone in all the provinces knows that you can't go to the king without an invitation otherwise you risk death, and besides, she hasn't been summoned by the king in thirty days. Mordecai answers with a stern warning that she will not be spared just because she is in the palace. If she does not speak up, God will save the Jews through another way but if she doesn't help she will certainly die. But he encourages her that perhaps she became queen for this reason. Esther agrees to go into the king, although she is not optimistic about the outcome. She asks Mordecai to gather all the Jews in Susa to fast for her.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# USING HER POSITION FOR GOD'S PURPOSES

*ESTHER 4:1-17*



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- Why did Mordecai not go to the king or Esther himself?
- What does grieving look like for you and what would cause you grieve?
- Why did Esther change her willingness to put her life on the line and go to the king?
- What have you put on the line to follow Jesus?
- Have there been decisions or events in your life that have required a different level of prayer and fasting?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# STRATEGY FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS

## ESTHER

*ESTHER 5:1-8; 7:1-10*



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** Tell about a time when your pride was your downfall?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

After the three days of fasting Esther dresses in royal robes and stands in the inner court where the king could see her. He is delighted to see her and extends the golden scepter granting her permission to come to him. He asks her what her request is, up to half the kingdom is hers for the asking. She asks the king to come to a feast she has prepared and to bring Haman with him. The king and Haman attend the feast and at the end the king asks again what Esther would like, up to half the kingdom. She requests that they come back for another feast tomorrow.

The next day the king and Haman attend the feast Esther has prepared at the end of the feast the king asks what Esther wishes. This time she asks for her life and the lives of her people to be spared, they have been sold to be destroyed; she wouldn't have bothered the king if they had just been sold to be slaves. The king asks who would dare to do such a thing, to which Esther replies, "This wicked Haman!"

The king goes into the garden to think while Haman stays behind to beg for his life from Esther. The king returns to see Haman seemingly assaulting Esther. Haman's face is covered and it is suggested to hang him on the gallows that he had built to hang Mordecai. Once he was hanged the king's anger relented.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# STRATEGY FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS

*ESTHER 5:1-8; 7:1-10*



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- How did Esther prepare herself to meet the king?
- What do you suppose Haman's thoughts were about being invited specifically to the banquets?
- Haman's pride is his downfall, have you ever had to deal with pride in your own life?
- Esther takes the tactic of pleading for her life and playing to the king's ego instead of pleading for all the people - why did this work in her favor?
- There are several paradoxes and ironies in these passages, what are a few of them?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# SEEING THE TASK THROUGH

## ESTHER

ESTHER 8:1-16



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What is one of your favorite stories about the underdog winning?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

King Ahasuerus gives all the property that was Haman's to Esther. Mordecai is introduced to the king as Esther's cousin, and she puts him in charge of all of Haman's property and the king gives him his signet ring, making him the prime minister of his kingdom.

Esther once again risks her life by going to the king uninvited, but he extends the scepter again. She pleads for the king to reverse the edict, to somehow reverse the decree, stating that she can't stand by and witness her people's destruction. The king reminds Esther and Mordecai that he has given Haman's property to Esther and that the edict written in the king's name cannot be changed. But he does give them permission to write whatever they want about the Jews in his name and Mordecai can use the signet ring to make it official.

The king's scribes are called and they write a new message to all the governors and rulers of all the provinces dictated by Mordecai that the Jews have the right to band together to protect themselves on the same day as Haman's edict to destroy the Jews. Mordecai includes that the Jews have the right to kill anyone who attacks them and loot their belongings. This edict is also sealed with the signet ring and sent out by messengers riding very fast horses.

When Mordecai finishes this work he walks out of the king's court wearing royal robes of blue and white, with purple cloak and a crown. All of Susa was excited and the Jews were relieved and thrilled.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

## SEEING THE TASK THROUGH

ESTHER 8:1-16



### DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

#### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

#### MORE QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think the king gave Haman's property to Esther? And why did she entrust it to Mordecai?
- What is the key element in Mordecai's transformation from sackcloth and ashes to royal robes, a crown, and a signet ring?
- How are God's promises to His people seen in this passage?
- What did Esther sacrifice or risk to intercede on behalf of her people?
- How can you come before the throne of God and intercede for others?



### APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



### WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# TEMPTED TO COMPROMISE

## DANIEL

*Daniel 1:1-21*



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** What is your favorite vegetable?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

The kingdom of Judah has once again been captured by their enemies; this time Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon has conquered Jerusalem. Nebuchadnezzar brings captives back to the Babylonian capital and sets apart youths that were good looking and smart with the plan to educate them in the language and literature of the Chaldeans (the people of Babylon). This re-education program was to last three years, they were to live in the palace and eat the king's food, and at the end of the time be evaluated by the king.

Daniel and his three friends decided to keep themselves clean and asked for different food and only water. The servant charged with their well-being was concerned and agreed to a ten-day trial. At the end of the ten days they were looking better than all the other youths and were allowed to continue eating their way for the remainder of the three years.

At the end of the three years all the youths were interviewed by Nebuchadnezzar and Daniel and the three friends stood out far and above the others, and all the other advisors to the king. God had shown favor to them by giving them wisdom, skill, and understanding. Daniel remained in the court of the kings of Babylon through three rulers, until they were conquered.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**

# TEMPTED TO COMPROMISE

*Daniel 1:1-21*



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- In what ways have you felt pressured to conform to our larger culture?
- Can you think of a time where you had to take a stand? How did you navigate it?
- Why was it important to Daniel to not eat the king's food or drink his wine?
- In what ways does God honor the trust and obedience of the young men?
- How do you remember in your everyday life to be dependent on God?
- How can you be a blessing to those over you and around you that don't live by faith?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?



# STAYING FAITHFUL

## SHADRACH, MESHACH, ABEDNEGO

*Daniel 3:13-30*



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** How do you prefer your s'mores? Lightly toasted or burnt?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

King Nebuchadnezzar built a giant gold statue to memorialize his reign and commanded all his officials to come to the dedication; they are commanded to bow down and worship when the band starts playing. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego are among the officials as overseers of the province of Babylon. Some troublemakers get the king's attention and let him know the three Jewish exiles are not complying with the order to worship Nebuchadnezzar's golden image which enrages him. The king gives the three one more chance and an ultimatum - worship the statue or be tossed in the furnace.

The three friends quickly answer, 'We will not worship your statue. Our God whom we serve is able to save us from the furnace, and even if he doesn't, we will remain faithful to God and never worship your gods.'

Nebuchadnezzar's anger is so fierce that he orders the furnace to be heated seven times hotter. It was so hot that those who carried Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to the furnace died of the heat. To the utter astonishment of all, the three men do not die and are joined by a fourth who has the appearance like "a son of the gods" and all four are seen walking around.

The king orders the men to come out of the furnace, they come out from the fire completely unharmed, not even the hem of their tunics are singed, and they don't smell of smoke. Seeing this, Nebuchadnezzar praises the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego for delivering them like no other god can, and commends the three men for trusting and serving their God to the point of giving up their own life to be faithful. Nebuchadnezzar goes on to make a decree that no one shall ever speak badly about the God of the three men or that person will be destroyed, and promotes the three men in the province.

# STAYING FAITHFUL

*Daniel 3:13-30*

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- Why did Nebuchadnezzar insist that everyone worship the image of gold?
- Where is the most difficult place for you to maintain your identity as a Christian?
- Have you ever felt targeted for your faith or ethnicity?
- What is the biggest risk you have made to be faithful to God?
- What is your initial reaction to situations that require a choice of conformity or faithfulness?
- How do you build your faith to be able to stand firm in the face of a furnace?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# TAMING LIONS

## DANIEL

*Daniel 6:1-22*



### WARM-UP

1. **ASK.** Did anyone do the challenge/application from last week?
2. **ICEBREAKER.** If you could see a movie for the first time again, what would it be?
3. **PRAY.** Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your hearts and minds as you study this passage.



### STORYTELLING

Babylon is now under the reign of the Medes and Persians and Darius is king and is establishing his own government. Daniel is set as one of three presidents in the kingdom, and he is distinguished above all the other presidents and governors because of his wisdom - so much so that Darius planned to promote Daniel. The other rulers became very jealous and tried to find a way to besmirch his name. But Daniel was so exemplary in his job they could find no fault and realized the only way to cause trouble was to find an issue with the law of his God.

All the presidents and governors conspired together and played on Darius' vanity by suggesting that it would be a great idea to pronounce an edict that everyone should worship him alone for thirty days and whoever worshipped any man or god other than Darius would be tossed into the lion's den. The king did as they suggested and when it was signed, Daniel went to his house and prayed and gave thanks to God just as he had always done.

The troublemakers watched Daniel to make sure that he is continuing to pray to his God and then go back to the king and tattle on Daniel, reminding the king of the consequences of his actions. The king is very upset by the realization and tries to find a way to save Daniel from the lion's den, but the other rulers come back and remind the king the law is binding and cannot be changed. Daniel is summoned and the king remarks, 'May your God deliver you!' Daniel is thrown into the den and a stone is placed over it and sealed with the king's mark. The king fasts throughout the night on behalf of Daniel and first thing in the morning hurries to the lion's den and asks if the God that Daniel serves continually has saved him. The king is thrilled to find Daniel alive, who reports that God sent an angel to keep the lion's mouths closed because he was blameless before God and the king. Daniel is removed

# TAMING LIONS

*Daniel 6:1-22*

from the den and the troublemakers and their families are thrown in to meet their demise. Darius then makes a new proclamation that everyone is to fear and respect the God of Daniel.

**Read through the passage as a group.**

**Rebuild the story as a group.**



## DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What stuck out to you from this story?
- What does this story teach us about God?
- What does this story teach us about people?

### MORE QUESTIONS:

- How does jealousy show up in your life?
- Can you share about a time you've faced unjust opposition?
- Is your faith steadfast or does it waiver in times of pressure?
- Have you experienced a time when you were abandoned, alone, and could only depend on God? How has God shown himself to be your deliverer and rescuer?



## APPLICATION

Take a minute and ask the Holy Spirit to speak.

- What is one truth from this story the Spirit is pressing on your heart to apply this week?
- Who could you share these truths with this week?



## WRAP-UP

- When do we meet next?
- How can we pray for one another?

# YEAR END REVIEW LEADER'S GUIDE

Great job finishing a year together! **Make sure to celebrate your time together in some way.** What follows is simply an overall reflection upon the year as a whole. Feel free to use parts, all, or none at all as you celebrate a year of Gospel-centered life transformation, mission, and kingdom multiplication.

## Curriculum Based Review

1. What was one of the most meaningful passages for you this past year? Why?
2. What is one way you have been surprised by this study of passages?
3. What is one theme that you are walking away with from this past study of God's Word?
4. What is one area that you have grown the most in as a result of this study?
5. How do you feel you are better equipped to share the Word of God with others?
6. What is one thing that God has put on your heart as a result of this past years study?

## Life Group Experiences Review

1. What is one way you have been surprised about your Life Group experience this past year?
2. What is one way you have personally grown this past year as a result of our Life Group?
3. What have been your biggest challenges this past year and what influence has our Life Group had on it for you?
4. What things have you appreciated most about being together this past year?
5. How would you describe a Life Group to someone who has never experienced it before?
6. Is there any group member's contribution that has been particularly meaningful to you? Who, What and Why?
7. What are some of the ways you would like to grow this coming year? Why?
8. Who do you know that we could be praying for this year to join us or another Life Group?
9. What would you like to see our Life Group become this coming year? Why?

# COMMUNION GUIDE

## Tips, Suggestions and References

Communion (or the Lord's Supper) is an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ, as our Lord and Savior. We believe it is a symbol of Jesus Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross and is to be done in remembrance of Him. The key is found in the phrase: "do this in remembrance of Me" (Lk.22:19; 1 Cor.11:24-25).

### **Why do we value the Lord's Supper?**

- The Lord Jesus placed a supreme value upon it (Matt 26:26-29, Mk. 14:22-25, Lk. 22:17-20)
- The Early church highly regarded it (Acts 2:42,46; 20:7, 1 Cor. 11:23-26)

### **What is the meaning of the Lord's Supper?**

- A special time of remembering what Jesus has done for us. It is His body and blood which are remembered in the Lord's supper.
  - Remember the Past: What He did on the cross.
  - Remember the Present: Our current relationship with Him. (1 Cor. 10:16-17)
  - Remember the Future: His promised return. (Lk.22:16)
- A time of thanksgiving (The Lord Jesus took the bread, and "having given thanks, He broke it...")
- A time of fellowship with other believers. Reminder of the unity we have in Jesus Christ.

### **Who should take part in the Lord's Supper?**

- Assembled believers in Jesus Christ (Acts 20:7, 1 Cor. 11:27-32)
- It is to believers whose hearts are prepared before the Lord (1 Cor. 11:20-22, 27)
- Ask yourself:
  - Is there any unconfessed sin in my life?
  - Do I need to restore any broken relationships in my life?
  - Do I need to recommit myself to the Lord?

**Resources:**

- Bread (A form of flat cracker by its nature represents the sinless body of Christ)
- Cup (Grape juice)
  - Special cups are not required. Any variety or size of cups can be used.

**General Group Flow**

- Open with a short devotional.
  - The What and Why of Communion, or,
  - Passages leading up to the Last Supper.
- Prayer of thanksgiving for the bread.
- Read the Scripture verse
  - Take the bread together.
- Prayer of thanksgiving for the cup.
- Read the Scripture verse
  - Take the cup together.
- Close in Prayer



# NOTES





# NOTES



# NOTES



# NOTES



# NOTES



# NOTES