

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRAY TOGETHER

Sovereign God, help us not just to admire Joseph's story but to live with the same trust. When we face pits, prisons, or seasons that feel unfair, steady our hearts and expose any bitterness or drifting devotion within us. Teach us to fix our eyes on You. Give us courage today to draw a line in the sand and trust You no matter what. Shape our character more than our comfort, guard our integrity when obedience costs us, and remind us that You never waste a season. As You worked all things for good in Joseph's life, do the same in ours, deepening our love for You and others. In Jesus' name, amen.

ICE BREAKER

Have you ever looked back at a strange or confusing season of your life and thought, "Okay...now I can finally begin to make sense of that." Tell us about it.

SERMON OVERVIEW

In this week's message, we're joined by Steve Poe, Northview's Legacy Pastor. Pastor Steve's sermon explored the story of Joseph, tracing how faith is formed not in comfortable moments but in the long, confusing middle of life. Through Joseph's journey - from favored son, to pit, to slavery, to prison, to leadership - we saw that God's will is often more about who we are becoming than where we are going. Joseph's life reminded us that the people in Scripture's "Hall of Faith" were ordinary people who learned to trust an extraordinary God. Along the way, the message challenged us to draw a line in the sand and decide ahead of time to trust God no matter what. We were warned that if our focus drifts to the trials in front of us, discouragement and spiritual drift won't be far behind. Yet Joseph modeled integrity and perseverance, choosing faithfulness even when doing the right thing cost him. In the end, Joseph's greatest victory wasn't simply rising to power, but keeping his eyes on God through betrayal, delay, and disappointment. His story invites us to release bitterness, trust God's "upper story" perspective, and believe that what others intend for harm, God can weave together for good.

READ SCRIPTURE

GENESIS 37:3-8; 45:3-8; 50:18-20; HEBREWS 11:1

CONNECT RELATIONALLY

1) The sermon emphasized that "God's will is more about who you are than what you do." Where do you see God shaping Joseph's character (not just his circumstances) across the 13 years of betrayal, slavery, and prison?

2) Hebrews 12:1 calls us to "throw off everything that hinders" and "run with perseverance." In Joseph's journey, what could have easily entangled him (jealousy, bitterness, discouragement, pride)? What does his response reveal about perseverance?

**GROW
SPIRITUALLY**

3) When life feels unfair (like the pit, Potiphar's house, or prison) what is your default response? Do you tend to focus on the problem or on God? What does that reveal about your spiritual reflexes?

4) Pastor Steve challenged us to "draw a line in the sand" and decide now to trust God no matter what. Have you ever made that kind of defining commitment? If so, when? If not, what holds you back?

5) Joseph chose integrity even when it cost him (with Potiphar's wife). Where in your life right now might doing the right thing cost you something - comfort, reputation, opportunity - and how are you responding?

**LIVE
GENEROUSLY**

6) The sermon said, "Your focus determines your reality." What is one practical way you can intentionally shift your focus back to God this week when anxiety, pain, or frustration rises?

7) Joseph eventually said to his brothers, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good." Is there a past wound or current situation in your life where you need to begin asking, "How might God use this for good?" What would that reframing look like?

8) The message concluded that maybe God's big plan is not about figuring out every detail but about loving Him and loving others. What would it look like for you to live that out concretely this week: at home, at work, or here at Northview?

**TAKE
ACTION**

Based on our conversation today, how is the Holy Spirit inviting me to take a next step in practical application?

I am feeling convicted to take the following action (keep it simple):

Please ask each member to share their step if they have one. It is ok if you are still discerning and need time to process, pray and ponder.

**PRAY
TOGETHER**

Please take a few moments to ask each member to share a joy or praise and an area of concern. Ask someone to pray over these requests, and please distribute them to all group members so you may continue to intercede for one another between your meetings.

**ENGAGE
TOGETHER**

Serve Finder - This month we've been emphasizing that serving is a key part of our growth, personal discipleship, and journey with Jesus. At Northview, we encourage everyone to join a team so they can use their gifts and talents consistently and meaningfully. Sign up for a Test Drive to discover where you can make the most impact—at Northview, with one of our local mission partners, or even globally on a Go Trip!