

SCRIPTURE CARD GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

THE WAITING IS THE HARDEST PART: JOSEPH" AUG. 28 & 29

SERIES OVERVIEW:

You are NOT disqualified from real life with God, even though life is messy. Sometimes we fall into the trap of thinking we are beyond hope when we find ourselves battling the same sins and temptations. Having a clear understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus means that we are forgiven, walking in grace and NOT perfect. We are a work in progress, and so are the people around us. As we learn to know God better and better, He equips us with everything we need to live in His will and be pleasing in His sight. (Hebrews 13:21)

*Follow the directions below for a guided group discussion with a friend, in a family, small group, etc.
Grab a Scripture Card (printed or electronic) and simply follow steps from 1 to 6 on this page and the next.*

1

OPENING PRAYER:

About 2 minutes

Ask a volunteer to open in prayer.

2

BIG IDEA:

About 1 minute to read


The story of Joseph is immense so we will focus this time on Joseph in prison. The long years of waiting, wondering, and trusting the promises of God. The question to address is, "What do we do when we are in 'prison/suffering/feeling isolated and alone' and not seeing the hand of God?" It would be very easy for us to wallow in self-pity. Maybe Joseph might ask, "What's the good of trusting God and doing what is right? So far, it has only gotten me into trouble." Instead, Joseph set out to minister to others, and before long, the hand of God was once again evident in Joseph's life.

3

INTRO QUESTION:


About 10 minutes

Share a high and a low since the group last met. How have you seen the hand of God in your life recently?



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They remained in prison for quite some time, and the captain of the guard assigned them to Joseph, who looked after them.
- Genesis 40:4 NLT

Reflect 

Read the full passage in your Bible - Genesis 37:18-28,36; 39:6-12; 40:1-4.

What word or phrase is the Holy Spirit highlighting from the scripture reading?

What might God be calling you to repent of or realign in your life?

What would acting upon this or obeying God look like? Be curious...and then do it.

4

SCRIPTURE READING + GROUP DISCUSSION

About 40-45 minutes

Read the entire scripture passage aloud as a group and discuss the questions on the card above. Use the [Discussion Help sidebar](#) to encourage deeper discussion.

How does it feel to wait?

What is the difference between actively waiting on the Lord verses doing nothing/inactivity?

Joseph's walk with God matures even in the midst of his waiting and suffering. How have you see this to be true of yourself or others?



DISCUSSION HELP:

Use follow-up questions to take the discussion deeper. Guide answers to be honest and real.

Can you say more about that?

How have you seen that play out in your life?

What does that stir up in you?


Has anyone else had a similar thought or experience?


What might God be inviting you to do?


5
LIVE IT OUT:
About 15 minutes

Read this section aloud. Invite the group to take the steps listed.


TAKE IT DEEPER



Live It Out 

Identify areas in your life where you are waiting on the Lord. Each day this week as you pray, open your hands symbolizing your release of control and relinquishing to the Lord.

Pray 

Talk to God about the challenges of waiting on him. Think about times where you've struggled to trust and share those with him.

Ask God to teach you to be still and wait for him to answer or act.

Thank God that his timing is perfect, that he can be trusted.

6
CLOSING GROUP PRAYER:
About 5 minutes

Read the prayer section on the card aloud, and take a moment of silence for each person to reflect on the prayer prompt personally.

Break into pairs. Based on the prayer prompts, share prayer requests. Pray for your partner now. Check in with them sometime before the group gathers again (text, email, phone call) to see how God may be answering this prayer.