

## TRUSTING GOD GENESIS 37-45

### LESSON PREP

The story of Joseph's life comes into focus in the Genesis narrative as it comes to its conclusion. It is a story with a cycle of highs and lows, a story that lands Joseph in a pit, as a slave, and finally in jail. But Joseph continues to see God's providential hand at work and ends up as the second in command of the ancient Egyptian kingdom. In this lesson, your students will discuss how they can trust God even when their circumstances seem to go from bad to worse.

As we look at the story of Joseph, we see a trustworthy God who works behind the scenes to accomplish his purposes, even in the difficult situations when life doesn't make sense from a human level. This dual perspective is critical to capture in your discussion because we, like Joseph, often only see the reality of life on the ground without the hindsight or perspective of what God is doing.

### PRE LG Text MESSAGE QUESTIONS

- Ever felt like God has forgotten you? We'll explore some powerful truths as a group tonight.
- Is God trustworthy? Join us for a look at the story of Joseph tonight.

### SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION

Proverbs 3:5-6

### 10N1 FOLLOWUP

### INTRODUCTION

*We're going to start by taking a little journey together. As I hand out blindfolds, find a partner. Choose one of you to be blindfolded and blindfold that person so they cannot see. For the next three to five minutes, you will lead the blindfolded person around our area. You may lead them with your voice. You may place a hand on their shoulder, or you may take them by the hand. Above all, you are responsible for their safety.*

- *How did it feel to be led around? How did it feel to be the one leading?*
- *Which role was harder? Why?*
- *How is our relationship with God similar to being led blindfolded through life? How is it different?*
- *How is God like the person who was leading? How is God different?*

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Sometimes it feels like we're walking through life blindfolded and bumping our way along, with God being somewhat involved, distracted, or even nonexistent. So does our perspective dictate the nature of God? As we'll see in the story of Joseph, learning to trust God when we don't understand him or his ways is not always an easy thing.*

### 1. God is trustworthy when you are betrayed (Genesis 37)

**SAY SOMETHING LIKE:** *Though we meet Joseph and his brothers in Genesis 30, when he was born to Rachel as Jacob's 11th son, it is Genesis 37 where we'll pick up his story.*

- *Look at 37:1-4. Why didn't Joseph's older brothers like him? What part does Joseph play in fueling this jealousy and hatred?*
- *How has speaking negatively of someone else created conflict in your own relationships?*
- *Look at 37:12-20. What do you think is it within these brothers that led them to seek this action against Joseph? What role did Joseph play in all this?*
- *Was God trustworthy in this situation? Why or why not?*
- *What basis did Joseph have for trusting God in this situation?*

### 2. God is trustworthy when you are falsely accused (Genesis 39)

- *Genesis 39:2 tells us that God was with Joseph. How do you think Joseph felt as he began to serve as a slave in the household of Potiphar? Do you think he felt like God was "with" him? Why or why not?*
- *Look at 37:13-20. What do you think went through Joseph's mind when he was falsely accused of trying to sleep with Potiphar's wife? Do you think he felt like God was trustworthy? Why or why not?*
- *Have you ever had a time when God gave you success in everything you did? Did you take credit, or did you give credit to God? Why?*

### 3. God is trustworthy when you feel forgotten (Genesis 40-45)

- *When he interpreted the cupbearer's dream, it's clear from 40:14-15 that Joseph knew he had done nothing wrong to deserve being where he was. Do you think he was questioning God in this? What sort of questions would come to your mind if this sort of thing happened to you?*
- *Look at 40:23—it's a small but significant verse in Joseph's story as the restored cupbearer forgot all about Joseph, and over the next two years Joseph was left there in prison. What kinds of prayers do you think he prayed? How would you have prayed in this situation?*
- *What do you think Joseph learned during the period of waiting to be released from prison? What might this tell us about how God works in and through circumstances? What do you learn from times of waiting upon God?*
- *Look at 42:21. Why do you think Joseph's brothers would be blaming their misfortune on the sin they had committed against Joseph over 20 years earlier?*

### APPLICATION

*How do you handle situations that go from bad to worse to unthinkable? What does trusting God look like in those moments?*