



Right Where You Want 'Em

05.31.2015

Genesis 42-46

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## study questions

Use these questions in your community group time to dig deeper and discover how you can apply today's message to everyday life.



### INTRODUCTION

Joseph, by his life, gives us as clear a picture of what anyone in history would do if they were convinced that God was with them. Due to the truth of his vision and understanding, God is able to do extraordinary things in and through Joseph's life when times are really tough, when he is extremely prosperous, and now, when he's got all the power.

He could have toasted his brothers who had wronged him so badly, and hurt him so deeply. A lot of years of life had been "wasted" from a normal human perspective. But Joseph's story makes us sit up and ask, "Were they really wasted?" It's all because Joseph chose a different path than people usually take. He goes the way that is the one his Heavenly Father has always taken.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever intentionally kept God or your faith at a distance for fear of offending someone who could impact your destiny? Explain.
2. What is it about difficult to read circumstances that make you want to take matters into your own hands?
3. Which is more difficult: to find God in bad circumstances, or to remember him in good circumstances?
4. Have you ever seen someone confidently acknowledge that God is with him or her?
5. Read Genesis 45:1-13 aloud.
  - a. What is most remarkable to you about Joseph's response when he finally has the power?
  - b. Try to put yourself in his place. What would be the greatest barrier to you taking the path of forgiveness in those circumstances?
  - c. In the long term, what are the benefits to following your Heavenly Father's path of forgiveness?
  - d. In what ways does forgiveness and acknowledgment of his presence honor God?
6. Where are you most likely to forget that God is in charge of your fate and writing your story?
7. What steps can you take now to honor God with confidence, even if it's awkward or uncomfortable?

### MOVING FORWARD

What goes around often comes around, and those who hurt you most often are later in front of you, needing you. In those circumstances, Jesus' way of forgiveness is really the only way to be free and to see God in those circumstances.

Is there a situation, relationship, or hurt that you are carrying for which your group could hold you up in prayer this week? Now is always the best time to break free!

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

"So then, it was not you who sent me here, by God." Genesis 45:8a (NIV)