



***Said No One Ever Week 3 – People Never Disappoint Me Spiritual Formation & Discussion Guide**

We hope you'll use this guide to take the teaching from Sunday's service and reflect on it with a few friends or a group. If you have questions or want to talk more about how to take your next spiritual step, contact us at info@wschurch.org.

Scripture:

Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, "Out, all of you!" So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace.

"I am Joseph!" he said to his brothers. "Is my father still alive?" But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them. "Please, come closer," he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the manager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt.

"Now hurry back to my father and tell him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all the land of Egypt. So come down to me immediately! You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me with all your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you own. I will take care of you there, for there are still five years of famine ahead of us. Otherwise you, your household, and all your animals will starve.'"

Then Joseph added, "Look! You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that I really am Joseph! Go tell my father of my honored position here in Egypt. Describe for him everything you have seen, and then bring my father here quickly." Weeping with joy, he embraced Benjamin, and Benjamin did the same. Then Joseph kissed each of his brothers and wept over them, and after that they began talking freely with him.

Genesis chapter 45:1-15

Reflection Questions:

- What is one of your biggest pet peeves? How do you respond when someone does this?

- What stood out to you from Sunday’s service? How did you sense God encouraging and challenging you through the songs, the message, and being with others as part of the church? (The message’s main points and scripture are listed below if it helps you think back.)
- Take a moment to consider your
- In the message, Eddie spent time walking through the story of Joseph in the Old Testament. Were you already familiar with Joseph’s story, or was it new to you? What stood out from the details of his story as you heard it described during the message?
- Eddie shared that when people disappoint us, we are tempted to respond in several destructive ways:
 - Self-indulgence
 - Self-pity
 - Retaliation

Are any of these temptations for you when you are disappointed by people? How so?

- Read through the account of Joseph’s words to his brothers in Genesis 45:1-15. What do you notice about Joseph? How would you feel if you were in his place?
- Eddie also offered some takeaway points from Joseph’s example:
 - Joseph was the most gracious with those who disappointed him most
 - don’t wait until you’re “over it” to forgive
 - the bigger the forgiveness, the bigger the impact
 Which of these do you need to embrace? Why?
- Is there anything else from this teaching that you want to explore more?
- Take time to pray as you close your reflection or discussion, asking God to help you act on what he has asked you to do.

Resources

Looking for some ways to grow and be stretched spiritually? Check out our highlighted resources at www.wschurch.org/resources.

Message Main Points and Scripture:

- **“People never disappoint me,” said no one ever.**
- Genesis 37:3-4 – “Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn’t say a kind word to him.”
- Genesis 37:18 – When Joseph’s brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. “Here comes the dreamer!” they said. “Come on, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, ‘A wild animal has eaten him.’ Then we’ll see what becomes of his dreams!”
- **SELF-INDULGENCE**
- Genesis 39:2 – “The Lord was with Joseph, so he succeeded in everything he did...”
- **when life is at its worst, God is still at work**
- Matthew 28:20 – “Be sure of this: I am with you ALWAYS, even to the end of the age”
- Genesis 39:6 – “Joseph was a very handsome and well-built young man, and Potiphar’s wife soon began to look at him lustfully. “Come and sleep with me,” she demanded.”
- Genesis 39:8 – But Joseph refused. “Look,” he told her, “my master trusts me with everything in his entire household. No one here has more authority than I do. He has held back nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How could I do such a wicked thing? It would be a great sin against God.”
- **SELF-PITY**
- Genesis 40:23 – “Pharaoh’s chief cupbearer, however, forgot all about Joseph, never giving him another thought.”

- Job 2:9 - “Are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die.”
- Job 2:10 - “Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?”
- 2 Corinthians 4:8 - “We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed.”
- **RETALIATION**
- Genesis chapter 45:1-15 - “Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, “Out, all of you!” So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh’s palace.

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- **Joseph is a hero because he was the most gracious with those who disappointed him the most.**
- **don’t wait until you’re “over it” to forgive**
- **the bigger the forgiveness, the bigger the impact**
- Luke 23:34 - “Father, forgive them, for they don’t know what they are doing.”