

GROUP DISCUSSION

Questions for facilitating dynamic discussion

Whiplash

Week 5: Enduring Hardship
Genesis 41:45-52

Week of September 19, 2021
(Jeff Griffin, Senior Pastor)

Life is filled with unexpected twists and turns. Through our study of Joseph, we see how God equips us to survive life's turbulent ups and downs. This week, our focus is on how we can survive and endure hardships in life — those moments when things start to improve, and then trouble strikes again.

Kicking it off: Jeff mentioned a tough day when he ran out of gas on the expressway. Have you ever had a time when you (or someone close to you) had car troubles on a highway? Briefly share that story with your group.

Discussion:

1. As you think about Joseph's story, which situation do you think would have challenged you the most if you were in his shoes? And why?
 - Being Hated & Trafficked by Your Family
 - Getting Accused & Imprisoned by Your Boss
 - Being Abandoned & Forgotten by Your Friend
2. Joseph named one of his sons Manasseh, which sounds like the Hebrew term for "causing to forget." Jeff shared how this doesn't mean an actual failure to remember. What does "forgetting" our past troubles look like in reality?
3. Read Revelation 21: 4. How does a knowledge of "no pain in heaven" bring you comfort?
"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."
4. What's a tough thing that you (and possibly your family) are facing right now? How might your life look different if you truly focused on how our troubles are temporary and, at times, can even be productive?
5. Read James 1:2-4. What have you learned about how to persevere from a previous trial?
"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."
6. Think about someone in your life who's enduring hardship and needs to hear a word of encouragement from God — or maybe you. Look at the list below ... what do they most need to hear right now? How can your group pray for that person this week?
 - God will End all Present Trouble
 - God will Prevent all Future Trouble
 - God will Heal all Past Trouble

Wrapping It Up:

Optional activity: Visit Biblegateway.com, and do a word search for the term "trials" as you close your time. Have each group member share the Scripture verse that encourages them the most, and then make a plan to share your favorite verse with at least one other person in the coming week.