

QUESTIONS FOR LIFE GROUPS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION:

Personal Life:

1. In our *His Story* series so far, we've seen God's ability to work on behalf of His children even through pain, sin, suffering and evil. Can you think of a specific time or season when God worked providentially in your life or circumstance? Perhaps a time when your faith ran thin, but in the end, God showed you that He had been working behind the scenes?

Ponderings:

2. Joseph displays amazing faith in His God, culminating in his statement, "*You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives*" (Gen. 50:20). Can you think of some other Biblical stories or verses that correspond with this truth?
3. From what you can remember about Joseph's story, how does it explicitly point us to Jesus? Why is it so critical that we read the Old Testament with an eye for how it points us to Christ? How is this radically different than reading the Old Testament through a *moralistic* lens?
4. Is there a circumstance in your life right now for which you can apply the truth of what we've learned in Joseph's story to help you walk with greater faith, peace and assurance? Share about what and how if you are willing...
5. Toward the end of the weekend message, the question was raised, "*How would the course of our daily lives look different if we chose to actually believe that God is crazy about us?*" How would that reality impact your choices? Emotions? Confidence? Humility? Peace of mind? Discuss...

Promptings:

6. Christian theologians and psychologists agree that the root of many sins and addictions is shame. The more people live according to a shame-based identity, the more they are caught in sinful and destructive behavior. Have you found this to be true in your own life? If so, what is your plan to walk away from shame and into the freedom of Christ? If not, who do you know in your life that needs freedom from shame and how might God use you to help lead them out?
7. No matter what role(s) in life that you play (parent, child, employer, employee, artist, athlete, student, teacher, leader, etc.), share with the group one simple way that you intend for your life to radically impact the world as a conduit of heaven's grace touching the earth...