



## FACILITATOR'S GUIDE—YOUTH

*Year 3—The God Who Pursues Relationship: A Story of God's People*

*Module 2—Genesis Part 2*

*Lesson 5: The Story of Joseph—Genesis 41; 45*

### ENCOUNTER 1—Community Discussion

Read Genesis 41 and 45 together out loud as a group. Encourage each person to journal through the passage using these questions. After allowing sufficient time for reflection, invite the group to share their thoughts.

*How is this God's story?*

*How is this others' story?*

*How is this my story?*

*How is this the world's story?*

### ENCOUNTER 2—Community Discussion

(Read the biblical reflection included with this lesson. The questions are designed for your group to enter into a meaningful dialogue about the Scriptures. The bulleted teaching points are taken from the reflection and correspond to the questions.)

#### **GOD'S STORY**

*In times of difficulties or when feeling empty, what are we even still?*

- Regardless of circumstances, we are blessed because we are God's.

*How does Joseph survive the ups and downs in life he experienced?*

- His life is opened towards God in any and all circumstances.
- Joseph knows the blessing of God's presence is because Joseph has carved out space for God.

*How does Joseph make time for God?*

- Joseph acknowledged God's presence with him in whatever situation he finds himself.
- It is Joseph's God-awareness that allows him to be blessed, to exist in the tension of knowing life is not as it should be, and yet trusting God is at work even still.

#### **OUR STORY**

*In what ways does Joseph respond to Pharaoh regarding the interpretation of the dream?*

- Joseph could easily take credit for the ability to interpret dreams. But Joseph points away from himself. This isn't about him. This is about God, who has been at work in Joseph's life all along the way.

*How does Joseph's response change Pharaoh's life?*

- Notice what happens to Pharaoh because of Joseph's God-awareness. Pharaoh becomes God-aware.
- In Joseph he sees God's very spirit at work. Because Joseph carved out space for God in his life, Pharaoh now makes space for God in the entire empire. And when famine hits, when barrenness comes to their land, they are ready. They have cultivated God-awareness in a tangible way. Joseph, blessed to be a blessing.

## OTHERS' STORY

### *What tension is Joseph living in when he sees his brothers?*

- On one hand he is moved to uncontrollable tears at the site of his brothers and on the other hand he speaks to them harshly and requires that they bow down to him again and again. We see in Joseph's actions the struggle it is to forgive. The deeper the wounds, the harder and longer it takes to heal.

### *What is the relationship between forgiveness and blessing?*

- Our ability to be a blessing is tied up in our ability to forgive others.

### *What is Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers a picture of?*

- Joseph's forgiveness of his brothers foreshadows Jesus own forgiveness. What Joseph was able to do in part, Jesus does completely.
- In Christ we all have forgiveness. If we have been forgiven we are to forgive one another, indeed it is one of the clearest marks of Christ on a person.

### *Why is forgiveness a big part of the Christian life?*

## THE WORD'S STORY

### *As a reminder, why have we been blessed?*

- Blessed to be a blessing. God is not at our whim. God is with us in order to make us a blessing to others.

### *What do you know about social injustices around the world?*

### *How can we as individuals and groups make a difference?*

## PRAYER

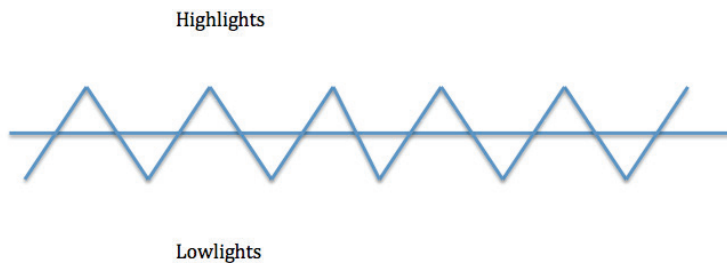
(Lead your group in corporate prayer.)

*When our way is exhausted  
And the going threatens us,  
When life is bleak  
And things get irregular and uneven,  
When our souls wane of courage  
And the noon day turns dark as night,  
When troubles and times of mourning seem to expand  
And agony locates its spot in our hearts and souls,  
Strengthen us, we pray.  
Keep us true, we pray.  
Rescue us, Lord, as only You, Your Son and Your Spirit can do.  
Lord, when troubles harass us and those we love,  
Feed us in the wilderness by reminding us that blessing is You and us sharing life together.*

## WEEKLY PRACTICE

(Read the weekly practice out loud, and challenge your group to practice *missio* beyond today.)

Grab a piece of paper, or your iPad or other tablet or device and recreate the illustration below. Above the line are the things in your life that you would consider as highlights. Below the line, write all of the things that you might consider are a lowlight. What do ups and downs of your life look like? What do your highlights have in common? What do your lowlights have in common?



## BECOMING MY STORY

(Encourage the group to spend time this week in God's Word, allowing it to penetrate their heart and life.)

*Leviticus 19:15*

*Deuteronomy 16:20*

*Job 37:23*

*Psalms 33:5*

Spend time this week reading and journaling through the above scriptures. Reflect on how the passage is God's story, my story, others' story and the world's story. In the context of Genesis 41 and 45, consider the following questions:

*How are these Scripture passages related to the message in Genesis 41 and 45?*

*How do these scriptures tell us about the story of God being continued from Genesis 41 and 45?*

*What is God saying to you through these passages?*

Consider other passages you might know related to Genesis 41 and 45 and read them this week, journaling as you go.