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Groups Sermon Study Questions

#### The Palace Test

May 13, 2018

# **Message Summary**

God has a dream and a destiny for every person, but there are some tests we must pass before we can fulfill our destiny. The purpose of every test is to develop character. Joseph was thrown into a dark pit from which he couldn't escape on his own. When we land in a pit of life, we should avoid blaming others, assess our own error and take responsibility. It's not the action that put us in the pit; it is our reaction to the action. Satan is a liar and will condemn. On the other hand, God will convict but never condemn His children. The purpose of the pit is to get us to cry out to God in repentance. And then God will set us free from the things that bind and bring us closer to the Father. The Father will not leave us in the pit.

### **Consider This**

Describe one dream for your future that excites you whenever you think about it?

Character prevents people from fulfilling their dream and destiny. What in your character is God shaping so you can fulfill your destiny?

Can you recall a time you walked through a season that felt like a pit test? From the verses in the following questions list some of the various ways God comforts us when we cry out to Him?

## **Study Questions**

- 1. According to Psalm 32:3-5, why is it so important to admit our mistakes? What happens when we refuse to confess? What happens when we do confess?
- 2. Read Psalm 119:71 and Romans 8:28. How does God use hardships and pits for our good? Can you think of a time when this has been true for you?
- 3. Read Psalm 107:6, Psalm 120:1 and Psalm 118:5–8. Tell about a time you cried out to the Lord and how He helped you.
- 4. Read Psalm 94:17–19 and Psalm 34:17–19. What do you think God is trying to show us through these verses?
- 5. Read John 14:26–27. In addition to His peace, God has given us the Holy Spirit as a Comforter. Whether we're in a pit test or not, how can we actively invite God's peace and the Holy Spirit into our lives?
- 6. Read Jeremiah 18:4–6. Whether being molded like clay or walking through the pit test, the things God brings us through are for a higher purpose. The pit test is a necessary part of the journey from our dreams to our destiny. Why is keeping the big picture in mind always important?

## **Moving Forward**

There is a good possibility that someone in your group this week is going through a pit test so take time to ask each other if anyone is going through a particularly challenging season. Gather around them, and spend some time praying for them as a group.