



MANNA CHURCH HAWAII - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Aug 9, 2026 | Reflections from Sabbatical

ICEBREAKER QUESTION: If your life had a “hard season” soundtrack, what song(s) would be playing? Why?

MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:

Joseph's story reminds us that God's job is to make a way, our job is to trust and obey. Joseph's life was filled with things he did not choose or deserve. He was betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, falsely accused, and forgotten in prison. Yet through every season, Scripture says “the Lord was with Joseph” (Genesis 39:2, 21). His story reminds us that God's presence and kindness cannot always be measured by our circumstances. Sometimes we may feel forgotten or wonder where God is, but He can still be working even when we cannot see what He is doing.

Joseph also shows us the importance of allowing God to work inside of us before He brings breakthrough around us. Even after everything Joseph experienced, he continued to honor God. When Potiphar's wife tempted him, Joseph said, “How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9). Later, when Pharaoh gave Joseph an opportunity to make a name for himself, Joseph immediately gave God the credit: “I cannot do it, but God will give Pharaoh the answer” (Genesis 41:16). His suffering had produced humility, faith, and a deeper dependence on God. Our greatest external breakthroughs often follow important internal breakthroughs, so we can trust God's timing and allow Him to do the necessary work in our hearts rather than rushing the process.

Eventually, Joseph stood face-to-face with the very brothers who had caused so much of his suffering, and he had every reason to seek revenge. Instead, Joseph chose forgiveness and recognized God's greater purpose, saying, “It was not you who sent me here, but God”. God had taken what was meant for harm and used Joseph's story to preserve lives and save his family. Joseph's story does not mean everything that happens to us is good, but it reminds us that God is sovereign and can redeem even betrayal, injustice, disappointment, and our own complicated stories for His purposes. As long as we have breath, we have hope. We may not get the story we would have chosen, but we can trust that God is still writing it.

GOING DEEPER: (break up into groups of no more than 4-6 for discussion)

1. What's one thing that stood out to you from the message or the summary?
2. Joseph went through things he didn't deserve. Have you ever experienced a situation that felt unfair or completely outside of your control? How did you respond?
3. Joseph's greatest external breakthrough followed a significant internal breakthrough. Is there an area of your heart where you think God may be doing a deeper work before bringing change to your circumstances?
4. **ACTION STEP:** What is one thing you can do this week to trust and obey God in an area where you are tempted to take control, become bitter, give up, or rush the process?

PRAYER: (break up into groups of 2-3 for prayer):

Father, help us trust You even when we cannot see what You are doing, knowing You are with us and Your grace is enough. Help us allow You to heal our hearts so we can forgive, encourage, and love others from a place of freedom instead of hurt. Use our stories and struggles to show others Your faithfulness and remind them that You can make a way even when they cannot see one. Amen.



MANNA CHURCH HAWAII - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Aug 9, 2026 | Reflections from Sabbatical

MANNAYOUTH DISCUSSION GUIDE

ICEBREAKER QUESTION: If your life had a “hard season” soundtrack, what song(s) would be playing? Why?

MESSAGE SUMMARY & SCRIPTURES:

Joseph's story reminds us that God makes a way, and our job is to trust and obey Him. Joseph went through things he never asked for or deserved. His brothers betrayed him, he was sold into slavery, falsely accused, and even forgotten in prison. Yet through every part of his story, the Bible reminds us that “the Lord was with Joseph” (Genesis 39:2, 21). Sometimes we may feel forgotten or wonder where God is, especially when things are hard at home, at school, with friends, or in our future. But just because we cannot see what God is doing does not mean He is not working. His presence is not based on how easy or difficult our circumstances are.

Joseph also shows us that God often works on our hearts before He changes our circumstances. Even when life was unfair, Joseph continued to honor God. When Potiphar's wife tempted him, Joseph chose to do what was right because he knew his choices mattered to God (Genesis 39:9). Later, when Pharaoh asked Joseph to explain a dream, Joseph did not try to take all the credit. He said that God was the one who could provide the answer (Genesis 41:16). Through everything Joseph experienced, God was building his character, humility, faith, and trust. Sometimes we want God to change our situation immediately, but God may first be doing something inside of us. He can use waiting, disappointment & challenges to help us become more like Jesus.

Eventually, Joseph came face-to-face with his brothers, the same people who had caused him so much pain. He could have chosen revenge, but instead he chose forgiveness and trusted God's bigger plan. Joseph recognized that although his brothers meant to harm him, God was able to use his story to save lives and bring good from something painful. (Genesis 50:20) This does not mean everything that happens to us is good. It means God can redeem even the painful parts of our story. When we experience betrayal, disappointment, unfair treatment, friendship drama, family problems, or other struggles, we can still choose to trust God. We may not get the story we would have chosen, but we can trust that God is still writing our story. As long as we have breath, we have hope.

GOING DEEPER: (break up into groups of no more than 4-6 for discussion)

1. What's one thing that stood out to you from the message or the summary?
2. Joseph went through things he didn't deserve. Have you ever experienced something that felt unfair or completely out of your control at school, at home, in sports, or with friends? How did you respond?
3. Joseph's biggest breakthrough happened after God had already been doing a deep work in his heart. Is there an area of your life where God might be working on your heart before changing your situation?
- 4.

ACTION STEP: What is one thing you can do this week to trust and obey God in an area where you are tempted to take control, hold onto anger, give up, or rush the process?

PRAYER: (break up into groups of 2-3 for prayer):

Father, help us trust You even when we cannot see what You are doing. Help us give You control of our lives, family, friendships, and future. Heal our hearts so we can forgive, encourage, and love others like Jesus. Use our stories to show others that You are faithful and can make a way even when we cannot see one. Amen.

Reflections from Sabbatical

Referenced Scripture: Genesis 37, Genesis 39, Genesis 45:4-8

The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered...

Genesis 41:15-16 ¹⁵ Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I had a dream, and no one can interpret it. But I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” ¹⁶ “I cannot do it,” Joseph replied to Pharaoh, “but God will give Pharaoh the answer he desires.”

Genesis 41:39-40 ³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. ⁴⁰ You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.”

Genesis 45:4-8 “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! ⁵ And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ “So then, **it was not you who sent me here, but God.** He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt.

4 Life Lessons from Joseph

1. The _____ attitudes and desires inside of us left _____ can destroy us.
2. Don't measure God's 'heced'/kindness by your _____ outcomes.
3. Our greatest external breakthroughs often follow our biggest _____ breakthroughs.
4. God is _____.

Discussion Guide/Going Deeper



Growth Track

