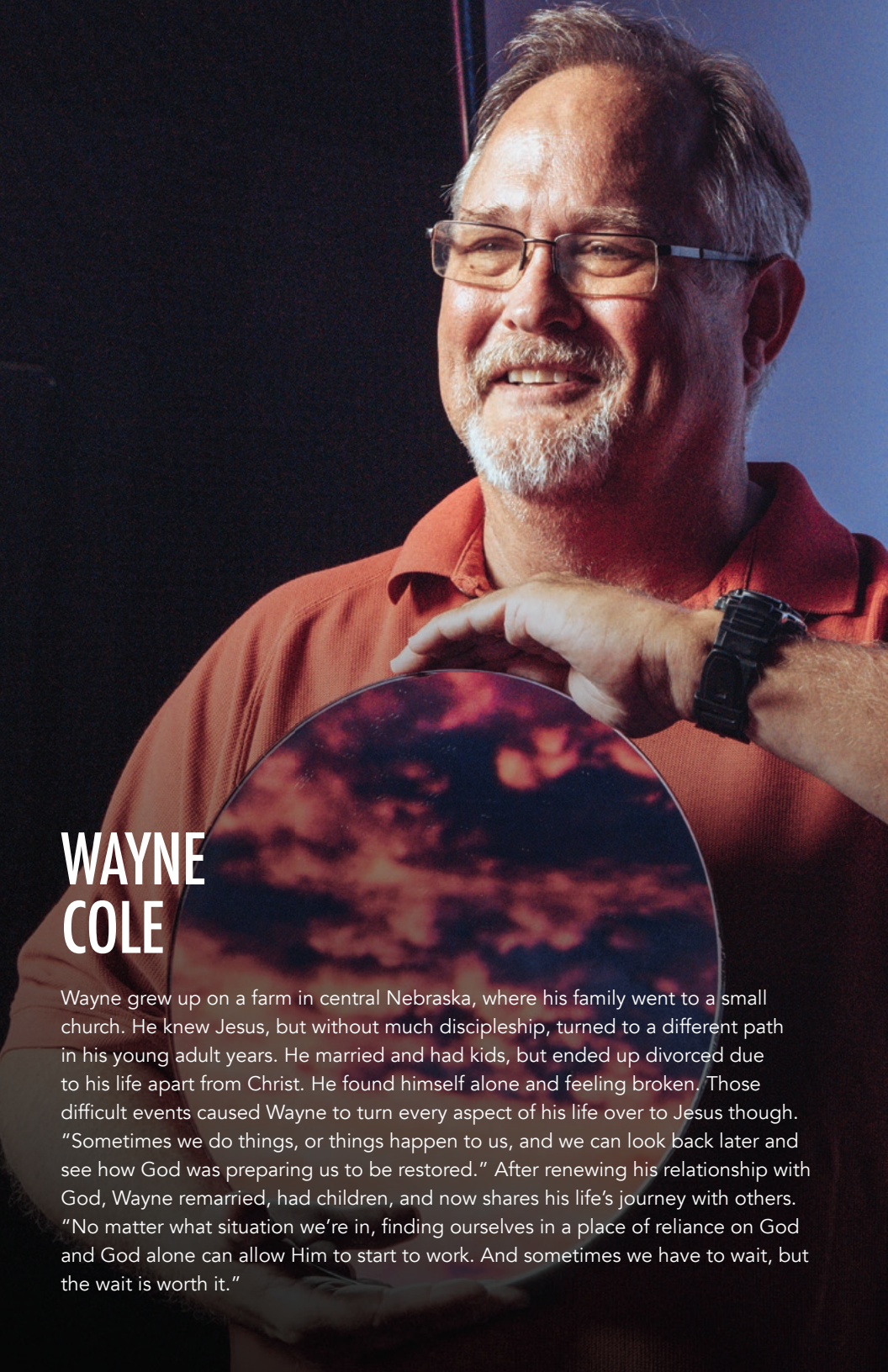


# SESSION 5





## WAYNE COLE

Wayne grew up on a farm in central Nebraska, where his family went to a small church. He knew Jesus, but without much discipleship, turned to a different path in his young adult years. He married and had kids, but ended up divorced due to his life apart from Christ. He found himself alone and feeling broken. Those difficult events caused Wayne to turn every aspect of his life over to Jesus though. "Sometimes we do things, or things happen to us, and we can look back later and see how God was preparing us to be restored." After renewing his relationship with God, Wayne remarried, had children, and now shares his life's journey with others. "No matter what situation we're in, finding ourselves in a place of reliance on God and God alone can allow Him to start to work. And sometimes we have to wait, but the wait is worth it."

# SESSION #5

(QUESTIONS WRITTEN BY KALLIE SKAGGS)

## READ GENESIS 37:1-36 AND GENESIS 39:1-2

Genesis 37 begins with Joseph in a spot of favor. He's his father's favorite. He's got his whole life ahead of him. His dreams indicate a bright future. But by the end of the chapter, Joseph has been betrayed and abandoned by his brothers, his father thinks he's dead, and he's sold into slavery. Life's twists and turns can happen suddenly, where things outside of our control force new realities. Yet even in the midst of this, we learn that God is "with Joseph so that he prospered" (39:2). Life's sudden changes don't jeopardize God's presence and plan.

## STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What are some of the descriptions used about Joseph? Why was he so loved by his father and hated by his brothers?

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2. Read Luke 15:11-32. In what ways does Joseph resemble the Prodigal Son? In what ways is he different?

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**3.** In Genesis 37:5 Joseph's dream caused his brothers to "hate him all the more" and still he continued to share his dreams of God's plan with them. Why do you think Joseph does this? Are there any ways this is similar to the life of Jesus during His ministry? Explain.

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**4.** Compare the beginning of Genesis 37 with how this chapter ends. Can you relate (at any level) to the "twists and turns" Joseph experienced? How so?

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**5.** Make a short list of how Joseph's life is different at the end of the chapter than it is at the beginning. (Get practical with this list — what parts of Joseph's life were impacted?)

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**6.** Read the first phrase of Genesis 39:2. What difference does this phrase make in how you understand the story?

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# SESSION #5

## MESSAGE NOTES

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What can be said about the difference in bravery, boldness, and faith between Reuben and Joseph?
2. Have there been times in your life that you felt out of control, feared, and wept like Reuben? Have there been times in your life you obeyed and followed God's plan through its twist and turns like Joseph?
3. Joseph was one of the youngest of a sheep tending family. What do you think his expectations were for his life before he had the dreams? What do you think they were after?
4. Of all the brothers God chose Joseph. "The Lord was with him and he prospered" (Genesis 39:2). What does this say about our God?
5. Share with your group any "twists and turns" that you've been through in life (or maybe are in the middle of now). How have you sensed God's presence in these times?