



## **Connect Discussion Guide**

### **3.28.21 Message | Tyler Myers | Genesis 50**

*God is relentless in returning all things back to good!*

#### **Key Scriptures:**

*When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you."' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants."*

- Genesis 50:15-18

*All these are the twelve tribes of Israel. This is what their father said to them as he blessed them, blessing each with the blessing suitable to him.*

- Genesis 49:28

*But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.*

- Genesis 50:19-21

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.*

- Ephesians 1:3

*And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

- Romans 8:28

*And Joseph said to his brothers, "I am about to die, but God will visit you and bring you up out of this land to the land that he swore to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob."*

- Genesis 50:24

#### **Message Highlights:**

- In Scripture, we see cycles of sin, cycles of blessing and cycles of purpose.
- Life's cycles are real; there are both positive and negative cycles.
- We shouldn't be surprised that our spiritual life also has cycles.
- We were made to live forever. Death is a consequence of sin, but it doesn't change God's goodness, our identity and our life purpose.
- Even in the cycles of life and death, we see that God is moving the story forward, restoring his people and bringing his kingdom.

**Conversation Starter:**

- Tyler explained the inevitable presence of cycles in various areas of our lives; can you think of any examples of such a cycle in your life? How would you distinguish between growing forward as we go back to the beginning versus merely going forward?

**Discuss the Message:**

1. How does the reality of the sin cycle illustrated in this sermon impact your view of God's character? Are there any specific stand-out verses or stories that especially highlight God's goodness to us as sinners?
2. Read Romans 8:28 again; do you truly believe this scripture? How would your days and your thought patterns be different if you began each day reading this verse? Can you think of any creative ways you could ensure you see the truth of this scripture on a daily basis?
3. How do Joseph's words strike you in Genesis 50:19-20? As you look back on hard times that have come to pass in your life, how have you seen God work those hard times for the good of the kingdom?
4. How is God urging you to grow forward through life's cycles? Where do you need to pull out of the spin cycle and find divine intervention? What does it practically look like to pull out of the spin cycle?
5. Take a few moments to determine what purposes you and our church community are living and working for. Do any of these purposes need refining? Which purpose is nearest to your heart?

**Pray:**

*Father, we thank you for your enduring love and faithfulness through all of life's seasons. Through the ups and downs, you remain constant. We pray Father, that through your Holy Spirit, you would help us to see and embrace the ways in which you are calling us individually and collectively to grow forward through life's cycles. Give us the grace to pull out of the spin cycle when we get stuck, that we might experience your divine intervention. Thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus, as he modeled for us a life of faithfulness to you as he moved through the seasons of life. May you empower us to live like he did as we choose to follow his example. Amen.*