



Joseph: Will I Accept God's Timetable
July 9th, 2017
Pastor Derek Sanford

Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Have group members describe a time when they had a "closed door" in their life. How did they respond? How did they move on? Do they still have wounds from that time in their life? Is anyone experiencing a "closed door" right now?
2. Pastor Derek said in the sermon that, "When doors close, we have to wait." Have the group members discuss how good they are at waiting. Look up the following verses and discuss the principles found that can help us to learn to wait. **Psalms 27:14; Psalms 130:5; Psalms 31:24; Psalms 33:20; Psalm 39:7; Psalms 62:1; Micah 7:7.**
3. Read **Genesis 39:20-23**. The first point of the sermon was, "Focus on God's work on the small scale." You can focus on what God ISN'T giving you or what He IS giving you- the small successes – the ways that God is being faithful. Have group members talk about small successes that God is doing in their life right now.
4. The second point of the sermon was, "Keep serving others with your gifts." Read **Genesis 40:1-8**. We learn from Joseph that instead of turning inward during times of struggle, he turned outward. Discuss how easily group members turn inward during times of closed doors. Have the group discuss what gifts they have that they can use to help others.
5. The third point of the sermon was, "Rely on God, but seize opportunities." Read **Genesis 40:9-15**. List some of the other biblical characters that followed this principle.
6. The fourth principle is found in **Genesis 40:16-19** where we learn to obey God even when it's hard. Have group members discuss times that they have recently struggled to obey God. How can the group help each other to obey God?
7. The last point was to remember that "God works on a grand scale" as found in **Genesis 40:20 to 41:1**. Read and discuss **Isaiah 40:31**.

Prayer: Have group members follow the "ACTS" prayer method in relation to the struggle we all have with sin.

- **ADORATION:** praise God for his time table and acknowledge that God is always working on a grand scale
- **CONFESSION:** acknowledge how often we are impatient with God and fail to trust in him
- **THANKSGIVING:** thank God for not giving up on us even when we give up on him
- **SUPPLICATION:** ask God to open your eyes to the open doors around you to use your gifts

Memory Verse: *They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.* Isaiah 40:31