



## WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Joseph: A Story of Redemption

#### *Giving Up the Hustle*

#### **Genesis 45:25-28**

In this sermon series, we explore how only God can mold and shape our lives so that true change can occur.

#### EXPLORING THE SERMON

- What did you hear?
- What did you think or feel about what you heard?
- What is one thing you can take away from the sermon this week?

#### VERSES FOR MEDITATION AND REFLECTION

*“So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. They told him, Joseph is still alive! In fact, he is ruler of all Egypt. Jacob was stunned; he did not believe them. But when they told him everything Joseph had said to them, and when he saw the carts Joseph had sent to carry him back, the spirit of their father Jacob revived. And Israel said, I’m convinced! My son Joseph is still alive. I will go and see him before I die.” **Genesis 45:25-28***

*As our study of Joseph comes to a close, we have seen and engaged many layers of text. We can each relate to one of the characters, whether we have done the hurting, or been the victim of hurt. Ultimately, Thomas points out, this is God’s story, not any individual character’s story.*

- *Discuss each of the characters of this story. Which character can you relate to the most? Have you dealt with the pain of being hurt by family members like what the brothers did to Joseph? Or as a parent, do you have regrets? Have you left scars upon someone else’s heart through egotistical actions?*
- *How is this story ultimately about the unchanging nature of God, and not an individual character, with as many threads as it has running through it? How is the same God who worked redemption in Joseph’s story the same God who continues to write our own stories today?*
- *In our Lenten study book **Liturgy of the Ordinary**, Tish Warren encourages us to start each day knowing that we are beloved, before we succeed or fail at anything. How can not understanding that God values us all equally cause us to spend the rest of our lives searching for a sense of belonging?*

**Prayer:** *Dear Heavenly Father, we give you praise that you are an unchanging God and this is ultimately your story. As broken people in need of new beginnings, fill us with hope, and allow us to live with the certainty and expectation that we do not struggle without you. Lord, meet us where we are and write your story on our lives as you create something new. **Amen.***

