



## WEEKLY SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

### Joseph: A Story of Redemption

#### ***Navigating Transitions***

#### **Genesis 41:53-57**

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**

*“When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, Go to Joseph; what he says to you, do. And since the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses, and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. Moreover, all the world came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine became severe throughout the world. Genesis 41:55-57.*

*At this point in Joseph’s story, he is no longer the brash 17 year old we saw at the beginning of the story. We see him now, at 30 years old, having just rescued much of the world from famine. The Bible tells us we will face adversities, just as Joseph does, but even so, we find it hard to navigate these transitions.*

*In Jerry Sittser’s book, **A Grace Revealed**, he describes an “ambidextrous” Christian as one who learns to take both prosperity and adversity in stride: “Prosperity makes God seem good, the world seem right, and faith seem natural, as writing with the dominant hand. Adversity does the opposite. Temptation overruns us, doubt plagues us, routines bore us.”*

- *Discuss times of both prosperity and adversity in your own life, and how you have handled these transitions. How have you tended to live “situationally” rather than “sovereignly”?*

*Jill encourages us to consider these steps toward living as ambidextrous disciples within our own lives:*

1. *Our attempts to routinely follow Jesus every day will help prepare us for tough times.*
2. *Practice the work of remembering. We are instructed in scripture to look back at God’s faithfulness in our lives.*

- *Discuss practices that can help you live out these two steps.*
- *How is becoming more spiritually ambidextrous primarily an exercise in trust?*
- *What are some ways we can support one another in this practice?*

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK** *Dear Lord, thank You for Your purpose in each of our lives. Help us this week to see the larger picture by looking back on Your faithfulness. Guide us to be more thankful and less anxious, and to encourage one another through prayer and fellowship. Amen.*

