

Series: Joseph

Scripture and Background Information for November 20-26.

To prepare for your group discussion each week, group members should use the **Community Group Discussion Guide** to complete the **GOD'S WORDS** and **MY WORDS** columns using the scripture below.

The vast majority of our stories get lived in the gap between our dreams and our destiny. Whichever direction we believe our story is trending, very few of us ever feel like we're "living the dream" for very long. If God has a dream for our life, why does so little of our life feel like we're living inside it? What do we do when our dreams are deferred, or detoured, or... dead? During this series we'll look at a man whose extraordinary story begins with a dream and ends with a destiny that looks exactly like the dream... and nothing like it at all. We'll discover what to expect from our God-sized dreams, specific ways to keep them on track, and how to live when our dreams feel more like a nightmare. Ultimately we'll discover that with every twist, turn, and test of the dream, there is a Dream Weaver we can trust. Even (maybe especially) when He is most difficult to see.

Background for Genesis 50:22-26:

The book of Genesis and Joseph's story ends in chapter 50. There we see Jacob's death as the whole nation of Egypt mourns (perhaps a testament to Joseph's authority and influence), Joseph again reiterates his reconciliation with his brothers, and Joseph's life dies with final instructions to his family. At the end of Joseph's life (and the book of Genesis) we don't receive a "happily ever after", instead we see Joseph looking forward to resurrection, trusting in the promises of God along with His presence with His people. Joseph serves as a great example how to endure testing, both by being ready for it and by looking ahead for a time when there would be no more testing, as God has made a way possible for us to be with Him always by the death and resurrection of His Son.

Insights and questions to engage with the text:

1. As we see Joseph's conclusion, what stands out about his final words and the focus of his instructions? How does that give us insight for the type of life we should seek to live as well?
2. Often in the Biblical text repetition is emphasizing a major point. What do we see repeated in v.24 & 25? What might be the main point Joseph wants us to see about the Lord and why would that be such a big deal coming from Joseph particularly?
3. As you think about Joseph's life as a whole, what parallels do we see with Jesus?
4. When you think about this series about Joseph as a whole, what stands out to you most? If there were one truth the Lord wanted you to hold, or one action step to take what would that be?