



Dgroup Discussion Guide for May 24, 2015  
**It is not luck, it's God's favor**

**SCRIPTURE:**

***Psalm 30:5 For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy comes in the morning.***

What is a favor?

- A favor is something done or granted out of goodwill.
- Most of the time, when we are disgruntled with what is happening in our life we end up asking loved ones or friends for a favor. Rather than running to people, let us instead seek God's favor in our life.
- In the book of Genesis, we see the story of Joseph, the son of Jacob. He was the favored son of Jacob, and his older brothers envied him. He was later sold by his brothers as a slave to be brought to Egypt. In Egypt, Joseph's life was also filled with trials. He was falsely accused and was put in jail. Trial after trial came into Joseph's life but he never despaired or turned away from God. Until in Genesis 41, we see that after God gave him the wisdom to interpret Pharaoh's dreams he was made governor of Egypt.
- This was the turning point for Joseph. It was at this time that he began to experience victory over all the trials that was thrown his way. He was finally at the point in his life when God's favor would be bestowed on him. It was because of this that Joseph named his sons Manasseh (God has made me forget my sufferings) and Ephraim (God has made me fruitful in the midst of my sufferings).
- This is a reminder to us that even though we do not like where we are today, we have to continue to seek God's favor, to trust in Him, to remain faithful to Him because we have a God who can turn things around in our life. And while we continue to pray, God will make us forget our sufferings and fruitful in the midst of all our sufferings. Often times that is the very reason why He allows us to go through trials so we will turn to Him to seek His favor and experience His goodness in the midst of our trials.

**These are the reasons why Joseph found God's favor.**

1. God had a great plan for him.
  - Early on in his life, God had revealed to Joseph His plans through a dream (Genesis 37). It was because of this dream that Joseph's family began to ridicule him and become envious of him.
  - This dream became a reality when Joseph became governor of Egypt.
  - Similarly God has a great plan for all of us. . . and this has been revealed to us in Jeremiah 29:11 ***For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, they are plans for good and not for disaster; to give you a future and a hope.***
  - When we begin to understand that God has great plans for us. . . His purpose, His will for us. We are not "accidents".
  - In order for us to completely experience God's favor in our life, we have to first know God's plan for us.
  - The question remains: Do we intentionally seek out God's plan in our life or do we insist to plan out our own life?
  - The only way we can truly experience God's favor is if we are in the center of God's will.
  - Joseph understood this that was why in Genesis 50:20 he says ***You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.***
  - It was Joseph's sufferings that was able to prepare him for a greater task. Similarly, when we undergo trials, suffering and pains . . . God is preparing us for the bigger task of saving lives. It is in our sharing of our testimonies that lives can be brought back to God.
2. God protected him.
  - Psalm 5:12 says ***For You, O Lord, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield.***
  - This is another blessing of being in the center of God's will – His protection. God will make sure that His purposes, His plan for you will be accomplished.
  - How was Joseph protected? In Genesis 37, we see that initially the brothers wanted to kill Joseph but Judah intervened and so Joseph was sold instead. It was also not by coincidence that the trader was there to bring Joseph to Egypt, where he was bought by Potiphar. It was Potiphar's wife who accused him and put him in jail where he met the baker and the cupbearer, who later brought him before Pharaoh. All these instances and people that had selfish interests and motives but all of them became instrumental in the fulfillment of God's plan for Joseph.

- Nothing ever happens by chance when you are in the center of God’s will, everything happens by Divine Intervention. God orchestrated everything to insure that His will/ His purpose in Joseph’s life will be fulfilled.
3. God prospered him.
- Genesis 39:3-4 tells us that the Lord was with Joseph and that was why he prospered. When he was with Potiphar, put Joseph in charge of his household because he saw that the Lord was with him.
  - God was present in Joseph’s life and this was evident in Joseph’s demeanor, his attitude, his outlook. . . so much so that even his master who did not believe in God saw God’s presence in his life.
  - Even when he was put in prison, Joseph did not change his attitude or demeanor. . . and so he noticed the change in the cup-bearer and the baker after they had their dreams. Joseph could have easily shrugged them off and just concentrate on his own problems and concerns but because Joseph was confident that God was continually at work even though he was not where he wanted to be.
  - Joseph could do this because he trusted that God was working in his life.
  - Joseph could have easily given up and go into despair. . . but he did not. He believe that he was not the only one present in that situation, God was present too.
  - 2 Corinthians 9:8 tells us **And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.**
  - God’s grace is sufficient. God’s grace is bigger than any situation.
4. God promoted him.
- Eventually we would see God’s hand promoting Joseph from the pit to the palace.
  - Genesis 41:38-40 shows us what Pharaoh says about Joseph. He says **“Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?”**
  - The only way that people can see the spirit of God in us if we continue to dwell in the center of God’s will, trusting Him and entrusting to Him our lives even when we are going through trials, pain or suffering.

When life makes no sense, when your world seems to be collapsing. . . don’t lose hope – trust in God and seek His favor. Joseph may have lost his father’s tunic, but he gained Pharaoh’s ring. He was thrown in the pit, but ended up in the palace. He was betrayed, sold, false accused and forgotten by men but was remember, delivered and favored by God. God can turn things around in our lives. It is never luck – it is God’s favor. And this begins in staying in the center of God’s will even though there may be times of pain and suffering – remember the weeping only lasts for the night, and joy comes in the morning.





**OBSERVATION:**

Study the passage. What details stand out to you the most? You can also re-write the passage in your own words to make it more personal.

1. Reflect on: The Story of Joseph in Genesis. What are the lessons you can learn from his life?
2. What event in Joseph’s life affected you most? Is there a particular bible verse that spoke to you?

**APPLICATION:**

Patently listen as God reveals where you can apply the passage’s lesson in your life. Write down specific action points to what He has revealed to you.

	Personal: Do I know God’s purpose for me? Do I strive to be in the center of God’s will? How do I respond to crisis and trials
	Family: How do we as a family intentionally live out God’s will for us? Do others see the spirit of God in us – in our attitudes, in our actions, in the way we talk? Do we as parents, intentionally teach our kids to seek God’s will in their lives?
	Discipleship: Am I ready to use my life as a testimony of God’s favor and grace to other? Am I willing to be discipled and to disciple others?
	Church/ Ministry: Our first ministry is discipleship, how committed are we in discipling others? How can you best be a witness of God’s grace and love? How do intend to show that you are a follower of Jesus? (Be specific)

**PRAYERS:**

Lift all the things that you learned back to God. Share your thoughts to Him. If He is impressing a sin in your life, confess it to Him. He is always ready to forgive.