



Prepare: Read Genesis 45 several times before your group meeting. Write down any questions or observations you want to discuss.

Discuss*

- As you listened to the sermon, read the chapter, or heard the lesson, what verse or thought stuck out for you?
- In Genesis 45:1-8, what are the reasons Joseph gives for what has happened in his life?
- Of the three questions, “Why me? Where’s God? How can I stand it?”, which one do you struggle with the most? Why?
- How do Habakkuk 1:5 and Isaiah 55:8-9 help you come to terms with the “why me?” question? Are there other passages of Scripture that have helped you to live with the “mystery” of God?
- What is your understanding of these phrases in Romans 8:28?
 - “In all things”
 - “God works together”
 - “for the good of those who love him”
 - “who have been called according to his purpose”
- The Christian worldview seems to say that suffering is overwhelming, real, and meaningful. How is suffering ever “good” for you?
- In addition to the story of Joseph, what other Biblical accounts help to illustrate the providence of God?
- How do these Biblical stories help explain the question, “where is God in my pain?”
- In what way does our contemporary pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness impact our view of the reality of pain and suffering?

Apply

- What difficult life situations can you look back on and say, “God meant it for good?”
- How can you help people going through times of suffering and struggle?
- What is God’s good purpose for your life?
- How is God using any current circumstance in your life to help transform you into the image of Christ?
- Is there someone you should reach out to that is experiencing suffering and pain? What’s stopping you?

We may be in the dark about what God is doing, but we are not in the dark about God.

--Os Guinness

**Use these questions to guide your discussion. Don't feel like you have to go through all of them and make sure you take time to talk through any questions and observations from the group.*