

Small Group Leader's Guide 10-18-26

Series: The Struggle Is Real – When Life Doesn't Go According To Plan (Part 3)

Main Scripture: Genesis 50:20

Scripture Reference: Colossians 3:23

1. Welcome & Snacks (10 Minutes)

- **Goal:** Create a warm, welcoming environment where everyone feels relaxed and connected.
- **Leader Tip:** Greet participants as they arrive, offer light refreshments, and allow time for casual, organic conversation before transitioning into the structured group time.

2. Icebreaker (10 Minutes)

- **Goal:** Get everyone talking with a lighthearted question related to the theme of unexpected turns and adjustments.
- **Question:** What is a time when a small daily plan of yours (like a road trip, a project, or a weekend plan) completely went off course, but ended up working out okay in the end?

3. Message Recap & Main Scripture (10 Minutes)

Key Scriptures:

- **Genesis 50:20:** Joseph's story demonstrates how God can take circumstances intended for harm and turn them toward good purpose.
- **Colossians 3:23:** We are encouraged to work with all our hearts in whatever we do, serving God rather than focusing solely on human approval.

Main Teaching Highlights

Looking at the life of Joseph, we see how God's favor operates even when timing takes longer than anticipated. Key takeaways include:

- **Overcoming Setbacks:** Setbacks may explain a current situation, but they do not have to define character or excuse a lack of growth.
- **Faithfulness Where You Are:** Focus on doing your best and honoring God in your current season rather than waiting for circumstances to change.
- **Integrity Through Pain:** Hardship does not give permission to abandon integrity; God honors faithfulness and doing the right thing, even when no one else is watching.
- **Looking Beyond Self:** Focusing outward and serving others keeps the heart tender and opens our eyes to how God is at work.

4. Discussion Questions (10 Minutes)

- **Goal:** Engage the group in active discussion surrounding the key principles of the sermon.
 1. How do we typically react when God's timing takes longer than expected,
 2. What helps us keep moving forward during those delays?
 3. The message noted that a setback explains **where** you are but doesn't excuse **who you become**. Can you give an example what it looked like to take ownership of personal growth in a tough season?
 4. What does it mean to "get good where you are dropped", even if your current environment feels overwhelming or out of your comfort zone?
 5. How can small, daily acts of faithfulness get us ready for larger responsibilities in the future?
 6. Pain can make us feel entitled to act out or compromise. How can we make sure we're doing the right thing when we are going through personal hurt?
 7. What are some practical opportunities we have during the week to do the right thing when no one else is watching.

5. Fellowship & Further Discussion (30 Minutes)

- **Goal:** Allow deeper, unstructured conversation, personal reflection, and community building around the discussion topics.

- **Leader Tip:** Use this time to let group members unpack specific questions or concerns. Encourage honest sharing about current struggles and victories in staying faithful in the small things.

6. Flexible Prayer Time

- **Goal:** Bring the group's needs, struggles, and hopes before God.
- **Focus Areas:**
 - Ask for strength to stay faithful and retain integrity through current setbacks.
 - Pray for eyes to see others' needs rather than focusing solely on personal challenges.
 - Seek patience and trust as God prepares new opportunities and doors in His timing.