

# SAINTS & STRUGGLES

P E R M I S S I O N   T O   B E   H O N E S T



## WEEK 6 | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### CONNECT

- This week we are talking about suffering. What comes to mind when you think about the word *suffering*?
- Think about your daily routines. How far will you go to avoid something you don't like? Changing your drive to avoid traffic? Drinking caffeine to avoid feeling sleepy?

### CONSIDER

- What encouraged or challenged you from the sermon and/or daily devotions this week?

### CHRIST

Read Genesis 37:12-36. Take turns reading as a group

- Joseph's brothers were very jealous of Joseph because he was their father's favorite and because Joseph had vivid dreams. This jealousy created a ripple effect on Joseph's life. **What exactly does this jealousy cause? What happens to Joseph? Discuss. Read ahead to Genesis 39:1-23 to see what happens to Joseph.**
- In Genesis 39:20-23, we see that Joseph has suffered MUCH. He had been taken to Egypt, sold into slavery by his own family, and thrown in prison because he refused to sleep with a married woman. He has gone from a loving home to a prison. That's a lot of suffering and a lot of change in a short period. Joseph had done nothing wrong but the sin of others had caused him to suffer. **Can you think of a time when someone else's sin caused you to suffer? Have you ever sinned in a way that caused others to suffer?**
- Even though Joseph suffered *a lot*, He still trusted God and did not allow himself to be defined by his suffering. Instead, he continued to be defined by God. **Read Genesis 45:1-14. How does Joseph react about the suffering he has endured? How would you have reacted to these brothers if you were Joseph?**

- There are times when we suffer and it is hard to remember that God is still with us. Joseph models for us an example of what it means to trust God in the suffering. To turn to God instead of our suffering. Joseph's story spans from Genesis 37-50. Those chapters recount a lot of suffering and yet God stays with Joseph that entire time. **How can we use the story of Joseph to help us remember that God is with us through the hard times even if it doesn't feel like it? How can this story help us to remember that God is BIGGER than anything we will ever experience?**

## **CALLING**

- What might God be asking you to do with the things you have suffered through? Might it be relying more on God when suffering happens? Perhaps telling your story because it could help someone else? As Jacob said this weekend, how do we own our suffering so our suffering doesn't own us?
- **Daily Devotions:** Spend 15 minutes each day with Northside devotions. Text DEVO to 81212 or use the Study tab in Northside's mobile app for Daily Devotions.
- **Memorize:** *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* - **John 16:33**