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GOD PLANS

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Leader, please make these available to your group.

The Egg Hut is less than two weeks away and we still need 70 volunteers. If you've been meaning to sign up and haven't yet, please please please do so today. We want you to be a part of our biggest outreach of the year!

Scan the code to sign up to volunteer



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GOD PLANS

Week 29 | When God Doesn't Make Sense

TRULY, YOU ARE A GOD WHO HIDES HIMSELF. ISAIAH 45:15

It's no secret that I like football. What might not be known is that if I have time to watch a game, I watch it on NFL GamePass. This way, I can view the condensed version, one whole game in 35 minutes, a great time saver. I also keep the "hide score" option off, which averts a lot of anxiety since I can watch the game knowing who wins in the end. A bad quarter of football feels a lot different if you know your team pulls out the victory. Side note, for those of you stressed out by current events, read the Book of Revelation. It tells you that in the end, God wins!

Now, if you're reading the story of Joseph for the first time, you don't have the luxury of knowing how the story ends. And certainly, Joseph didn't either. He had been given a glimpse of what God was going to do through God-given dreams, but his whole life seemed to fall apart when his envious brothers sold him into slavery. In that moment in time, God and His ways didn't make sense to Joseph. What he didn't know was that God would take all of that evil and turn it for good. Something only the God of the Bible is able to do in his life and in yours!

Leaders: Take your group through each section: Pray, Reflect, and Reach. Keep in mind the time allowances. In the Reflect section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



PRAY (10 min)

As a Life Group, take time in prayer to honestly express the struggle that you might be experiencing in current circumstances. Also, confess your willingness to trust God.



REFLECT (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. God does things in ways that can seem illogical, unreasonable, or that just plain don't make sense to us. In those moments, our tendency can be to question God or to choose not to trust Him.

How do you handle these moments in your life? Is there a pattern to your response (i.e., taking matters into your own hands, drifting from God, drawing near, and trusting Him more)?

**For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways,
and My thoughts than your thoughts.**

Isaiah 55:8



2. It's God's prerogative to conceal a matter. By that I mean, He doesn't always tell us what He is doing or why He is doing it. Neither does He need our counsel. When God keeps us "in the dark," we often wonder where He is.

List some concrete ways you can keep yourself anchored to God, even when you feel like He's not there.

The point of Job is that the Lord can be trusted even when He can't be tracked.

3. God redeems what seems to be unredeemable. In other words, God can take the evil and pain in life, turn it around, and use it for His good purposes.

Make a list of people in the Bible who experienced God using evil or painful circumstances for something good. What do you learn from their lives?

Though the fig tree may not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines; though the labor of the olive may fail, and the fields yield no food; though the flock may be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in the stalls—Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God is my strength.

Habakkuk 3:17-19

4. The main purpose of Joseph's life is to be an illustration of the real Hero in the Bible, Jesus.

Take some time to meditate on how Jesus' suffering on your behalf has led to God's blessings. List some of those blessings and spend time in prayer worshiping Him for all He has done.



WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

John 12:24

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.



REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, make the choice to anchor yourself to God in the midst of the storm. Apply the anchor points that were given in the message.

We will be waiting with anticipation to hear how God poured out His peace and strength upon you as you anchored yourself to Him.