

START HERE

# GOD PLANS

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Leader, please make these available to your group.

*Easter week is here! Thursday is our Prophecy Update at 6:30pm. Good Friday also at 6:30pm and our Sunrise gathering will be at 6am.*

*Our outreach services are 8 -10 - 12 and everyone should be praying about who to invite and bring to these services. If you bring someone new we will have a welcome tent on the patio for ALL NEW PEOPLE so please bring them our way so we can give them a gift.*

*Take time this week to write the name of the person you are hoping to bring on our AWAKEN SIGN in the lobby!*



# START HERE GOD PLANS

Week 31 | SOVEREIGNTY | Genesis 41:9-45

## IN THE MIDST OF HUMANITY'S CHAOS GOD IS ABLE BRING TO PASS HIS ETERNAL PURPOSE

When I was growing up, we would entertain ourselves by putting together puzzles, you know the 500-1000 piece variety. We followed a consistent process. We would dump the pieces out and then turn them image side up. Then we set the picture that the pieces made (normally on the cover of the box the puzzle came in) in a central location and began separating them into sections based on their color and the aspect of the image they connected to. Being able to see the final picture was essential in sorting out the pieces. It's safe to say that assembling the puzzle without knowing the final image would be virtually impossible. I think that circumstances in life can feel like that. Like puzzle pieces that don't make sense because we don't yet know the final picture that God has planned. We can be left feeling that circumstances are meaningless, disconnected from purpose, and even worse, intended for our harm. It's not until God brings it all together that we say to God, "Ah, this is what you had in mind the whole time." Joseph had the aha moment when he was brought before Pharaoh. In that moment, the painful events of his life made sense.

Let's be like Joseph in this regard, let's remember that God is sovereign, and because of that, He deserves our faithfulness and worship even when we don't understand what He is doing.

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 thank God for His faithfulness even when you questioned His plan for your life.



### 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. What does it mean when we say that God is sovereign? **How does God's sovereignty bring you comfort during challenging circumstances?**

**In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.**

**Ephesians 1:11**



2. Joseph had the amazing opportunity to stand before Pharaoh. But this moment wasn't about exalting him, it was about exalting God. God will allow you to prosper, to have influence, and to be exalted so that you can exalt Him. **Do you exalt God when He brings you success? In what ways have you succeeded or failed in this? Is there a situation happening in your life right now that you can exalt Him in?**

### The prosperity and influence God brings you is not to exalt you, it's to exalt Him!

3. Like Joseph, God will allow you to suffer for the sake of others. As this story played out and the picture of God's plan became clear, Joseph was able to say to his brothers who betrayed him that it was God who had sent him to Egypt in order to deliver them from the famine. **How did this perspective of God's sovereignty enable Joseph to love His brothers? Does this apply to any relationships in your life?**

**And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth, and to save your lives by a great deliverance. 8 So now it was not you who sent me here, but God; and He has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house, and a ruler throughout all the land of Egypt.**

Genesis 45:7

4. Joseph's suffering for the sake of others prefigures Christ's suffering for the sake of the world. List as many similarities between Joseph and Jesus that you can. Reflect on Christ's suffering and sacrifice.



## WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

### Ephesians 1:11

In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.



## REACH (5 min)

Considering what God revealed to you this week, entrust your circumstances into the sovereign hands of God. Choose to be faithful while not understanding how your circumstances fit into the final picture of God's plan.

**We will be waiting with anticipation to hear how trusting in God's sovereignty and being faithful strengthened your heart and gave you the opportunity to exalt Him.**