



Small Group Study Guide

BETTER
than
EVER

January 17, 2021
“Moving Forward”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for preserving this ancient story that is so relevant for us today. Thank you for responding to the sin of the world in such an unexpected way that it saved us. Father, help us to see that our current circumstances are not our entire story, that they are only part of the story. Lord, we really want to get this right, so would you teach us how to respond like Joseph, instead of just reacting to our circumstances. We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES:

Genesis 50:18-20 (NIV)

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

²⁸ And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

INTRODUCTION

There is more to your circumstances than meets the eye. Your current circumstances are a chapter. They are not the full story. You have the power to respond rather than react. Use it. You will be better for it, and the people around you will be too.

QUESTIONS

- 1) Were your parents reactors or responders? How did their pattern work out for them? For you?
- 2) Is it difficult to imagine the events of your life as part of a bigger story?
- 3) Read Genesis 50:18-20 on page 1.
 - What stands out to you about this passage?
 - Given all that Joseph had been through, how could he respond like that?
- 4) Read Romans 8:28 on page 1.
 - With Joseph's story as a backdrop, what stands out to you about this passage?
 - What are the implications of Paul's words to all Christians who are navigating adversity?
- 5) Where are you reacting as expected rather than responding in a way that opens the door for an unexpected outcome?

FINAL APPLICATION

What would someone in your circumstance do if they were confident that God was with them?