

LOVED WHAT YOU HEARD ON SUNDAY? WANT TO GO DEEPER? THE LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE WILL HELP YOU UNPACK WHAT YOU HEARD ON SUNDAY WHILE DIVING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD.

Life Group Study Guide

1. HAVE YOU EVER MET SOMEONE WHO SEEMED "LARGER THAN LIFE?" WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO BE IN THEIR PRESENCE?
2. WE ALL HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS OF GOD. DO YOU TEND TO THINK OF GOD AS A FATHER YOU CAN RUN TO AT ALL TIMES? A BIG GOD WHO RULES OVER EVERYTHING? A TRUSTED FRIEND AND CONFIDANT WHO IS ALWAYS BESIDE YOU? HOW HAS YOUR VIEW OF GOD SHIFTED THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFE?
3. WHAT STUCK OUT TO YOU FROM SUNDAY'S MESSAGE? IF YOU HAD TO SUMMARIZE THE MESSAGE FOR A FRIEND INTO A SINGLE SENTENCE, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

We tend to know Jesus the Savior, Jesus the Friend, Jesus the Teacher, and even Jesus the Healer; but the Bible provides us with another view of Jesus: Jesus the awesome, majestic, all-powerful God of the Heavens and the earth.

A. Read the following verses and jot down any questions, observations, or insights you have.

- Isaiah 40:28, Isaiah 55:8-9; Romans 4:1-11

- B. HOW DO THESE VERSES DESCRIBE GOD? HOW DOES THIS COMPARE WITH YOUR VIEWS OF GOD?
- C. ARE THESE VERSES ENCOURAGING TO YOU? IF SO, HOW? IF NOT, WHY?
- D. WHAT IS EVERYONE IN REVELATION CHAPTER 4 DOING? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR US TODAY?

Digging Deeper

1. Often times our trials and weaknesses are the very platforms through which others experience God. Is there a particular trial in your life that God is using to help you minister to those around you?
2. On Sunday Jason made the statement that "we have become satisfied with too little in life." In what ways have your views of God been too little? In what ways have you settled for less in your relationship with Jesus? How has this affected your relationship with Him? What steps do you need to take to get a bigger view and experience more of Jesus?

LIFE'S TOUGH QUESTIONS: THE STORY OF JOSEPH

OCTOBER 23, 2016 // GENESIS 41:1-57



“HOW BIG IS YOUR GOD?”

IF YOUR GOD ISN'T BIGGER THAN YOUR **TROUBLES**,

YOU NEED A **BIGGER** GOD.

HOW TO GET A BIGGER GOD:

Genesis 41:1-13 (ESV) After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, ²and behold, there came up out of the Nile seven cows attractive and plump, and they fed in the reed grass. ³And behold, seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile. ⁴And the ugly, thin cows ate up the seven attractive, plump cows. And Pharaoh awoke. ⁵And he fell asleep and dreamed a second time. And behold, seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk. ⁶And behold, after them sprouted seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind. ⁷And the thin ears swallowed up the seven plump, full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream. ⁸So in the morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was none who could interpret them to Pharaoh. ⁹Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, “I remember my offenses today. ¹⁰When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard, ¹¹we dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own interpretation. ¹²A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each man according to his dream. ¹³And as he interpreted to us, so it came about. I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged.”

TRUST THAT THERE IS A GOD-GIVEN **DESIGN** IN YOUR DISTRESS.

Genesis 41:14-16 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh. ¹⁵And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it.” ¹⁶Joseph answered Pharaoh, “It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer....”

RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE TROUBLES ONLY GOD CAN **FIX**.

Genesis 41: 24-25, 32 “I told this to the magicians, but none of them could explain it to me.” ²⁵Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, “The dreams of Pharaoh are one; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do.... ³²And the doubling of Pharaoh’s dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about.

START LOOKING TO **GOD’S WORD**.

THE ANSWERS TO LIFE'S TOUGHEST QUESTIONS ARE ALWAYS FOUND IN GOD'S WORD.

Genesis 41:37-42(ESV) This proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants. ³⁸And Pharaoh said to his servants, “Can we find a man like this, in whom is the Spirit of God?” ³⁹Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has shown you all this, there is none so discerning and wise as you are. ⁴⁰You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command. Only as regards the throne will I be greater than you.” ⁴¹And Pharaoh said to Joseph, “See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt.” ⁴²Then Pharaoh took his signet ring from his hand and put it on Joseph’s hand, and clothed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain about his neck...

... **45** And Pharaoh called Joseph’s name **Zaphenath-paneah**. And he gave him in marriage **Asenath**, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On

... **50** Before the year of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph. Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera priest of On, bore them to him. ⁵¹Joseph called the name of the firstborn **Manasseh**. “For,” he said, “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father’s house.” ⁵²The name of the second he called **Ephraim**, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my affliction.”

STOP MAKING IT ABOUT **YOURSELF**. YOUR TROUBLES ARE A PLATFORM FOR OTHERS TO **EXPERIENCE GOD**.

Genesis 41:53-57 ⁵³The seven years of plenty that occurred in the land of Egypt came to an end, ⁵⁴and the seven years of famine began to come, as Joseph had said. There was famine in all lands, but in all the land of Egypt there was bread. ⁵⁵When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph. What he says to you, do.” ⁵⁶So when the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt. ⁵⁷Moreover, all the earth came to Egypt to Joseph to buy grain, because the famine was severe over all the earth.