



## SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Ice Breaker:** Sunday's story of Joseph was set in the 1950's. If you could live in any time period, which would you choose? Why?

**Instructions:** If your group meets bi-weekly, answer questions 3 & 4.

1. In the beginning of Joseph's story, we find that his brothers resent him. Read Genesis 37:2-11. What may have contributed to this? (See 2b and 4b.) Have you witnessed or experienced resentment yourself toward someone who was seemingly treated differently/unequally? How did you respond? What role did Joseph's father, Jacob, have in his family's dysfunction? How might Jacob have led his family differently?
2. As Joseph's story continues, his brothers' resentment has grown, as they consider murder and settle for selling him as a slave. How do people get to the point that they would hurt another in these types of ways? What role did the "mob mentality" of several brothers play in their actions? Have you seen this in your family or in other relationships? Reuben had great intentions, but he was unable to see them through (see Genesis 37:21-22, 29-30). How might him voicing his objections aloud altered the outcome? Have you ever stuck up for someone and changed the outcome? Describe.
3. No matter what happened to Joseph, he continued to trust God and work diligently wherever God placed him. How have you proceeded during difficult situations you encountered? Was it easy or difficult to trust God in those moments? At the end of the Joe's story, Spinner compares Joe's life to Jesus'. Take time to discuss how their lives were similar and how what was intended for harm brought the good God intended for both Joe and Jesus.
4. In the musical, "Joe" said about God, "He's always at work, even when we can't see what He's up to." What role do prayer and faith play in walking through adversity (see Philippians 4:6 and Romans 8:28)? Describe a time when God was "up to something" you weren't aware of but realized it later. How did this realization build your faith?

### Personal Guide for Week of June 18<sup>th</sup>

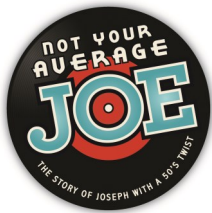
**DAY 1:** Read *Psalm 20*. What are we promised in these verses?

**DAY 2:** Read *Psalm 62:5-8*. What does it mean to you to have God as your refuge?

**DAY 3:** Read *John 14:1-14*. How do Jesus' words help you to trust Him more?

**DAY 4:** Read *Psalm 118:5-14*. Why is it better to trust in God rather than family/others?

**DAY 5:** Read *Isaiah 26:3-4*. How do the characteristics of a rock help you understand God's trustworthiness?



# Message Notes

Nate Sickler, Small Groups Pastor

A series of horizontal green lines for writing, overlaid on a large, stylized graphic of three Easter eggs. The eggs are filled with various colors: yellow, pink, and light blue. The central egg is mostly yellow with pink and white patterns. The left and right eggs are primarily yellow with pink and light blue patterns. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page.