

Active Faith Friday – May 1, 2020  
Discussion Guide

MAIN IDEA

When you don't know what to do, remember that your problems can position you for a purpose.

SCRIPTURE

**Genesis 40:1-8 NIV**

**Romans 8:28 NIV** *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.*

INTRO

- we often ask ourselves, *Why? Why is this happening to ME? Why am I going through this? Why is this happening NOW?*
- Difficulties often feel random, pointless, or unnecessary.
- *Most* of the time, things that don't feel good seem pointless.
- We've all had an experience that hurts AND feels pointless in the moment.
- Joseph's life was marked by hard and difficult situations, here is a recap:
  - Joseph was sold into slavery by his own *brothers*.
  - He was taken to a foreign land (Egypt), where he was forced to work for a high-powered official.
  - He was falsely accused of doing something he didn't do and was thrown into prison.
- And that's where we pick up. Joseph is in jail for a crime he didn't commit and here he makes some new friends (*Genesis 40:1-3 NIV*).
- Remember, Joseph was in prison for a crime he didn't commit, and even in that really difficult situation, Joseph continued to honor God! (*Genesis 40:4-8, NIV*).
- The men told Joseph their dreams. And with God's help, Joseph told them what they meant. And, then, what Joseph said would happen, happened.
- The story tells us the cupbearer forgot about Joseph. He got out of jail and went on with his life.
- Over time, as Joseph was waiting in jail for his friend to remember him, he realized that not only did his friend forget him, what he did to help his friend didn't help his situation.
- But then, two years later, Pharaoh had two dreams that troubled him. He desperately searched for someone on his staff who could interpret them, but no one could. And *that's* when the cupbearer remembered Joseph.
- Pharaoh called for Joseph, who interpreted the dream with incredible accuracy. And as a result, eventually Joseph was made second in charge *of all of Egypt*.
- Under Joseph's leadership, Egypt survived a terrible famine, which eventually put Egypt in a position to save Joseph's family and other people from his homeland who were suffering from the famine.
- This did not make Joseph's life *perfect*. Not even close. But when we see the big picture and understand the context to this backstory, we see that Joseph's challenging circumstances uniquely positioned him to do something great.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Imagine there was a movie about the origin story of your life. What would be on the movie poster and why?
2. How are our actual origin stories similar or different from the movie poster?
3. How can problems, disappointments, or letdowns affect our relationship with those who are around you?? What about your relationship with God?
4. What is a situation that you hope God can use but you can't see it right now?
5. When someone is hurting, what are some things that people say, or do, that is helpful? What are some things that people say, or do, that is not helpful?
6. How has hearing someone else's difficult situation helped you in your own difficult situation?
7. **For upperclassmen:** Read Romans 8:28. It can be tempting to understand this verse as saying God will make all of our problems go away, but we know that isn't always the case. What are some ways God may use a situation for good *without* making it go away?

## REMEMBER

- Hard things can happen in your life. And it is important to remember that just because something happens doesn't mean it was something God did *to* you or wanted for you
- When you don't know what to do, remember that your problems can position you for a purpose.