

Introduction: *Engage your group members in review.*

Ask the question, “How did Joseph get to the position of service to Pharaoh in Genesis 41:46?”

[For those who have missed previous sessions, the impact of the dramatic climax will be significantly reduced without an understanding of the difficult suffering that preceded these events. See the review on the bottom half of page 155 in the leader guide for suggested highlights.]

Dig into the text: One might misunderstand Joseph’s personality to be a mindless dreamer and a person who is not a deep thinker. Ask your group members if they know the character Pollyanna, the character created by Eleanor H. Porter in the 1913 novel by the same name. Compare Joseph to Pollyanna—*Is there evidence in the text that he felt his pain deeply and overcame his suffering through his faith in God? As opposed to pushing aside his adversity based on a superficial optimism?*

Focus on Genesis 41:50-52. Examine the names of his sons: Manasseh (“forget the hardship”) and Ephraim (“fruitful in the land of my affliction”). Ask these questions: “Is God calling you to forget past hardship? Is He calling you to be fruitful in your current situation?”

Consider showing this video in which a vocal group performs “Dream On,” a contemporary Christian song that includes a verse about Joseph:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-J1H_aM_ZaA

Conclusion: Review Genesis 45:1-15, looking at it through the lens of the gospel. In what ways is Joseph a type of Christ in these events, prefiguring Christ’s work on the cross for us?

Lead group members to conviction and application: With the remaining few minutes of class, lead your group in the following activity.

- **Step 1:** Distribute Post-it notes to your group members and ask them to record a name or brief description of someone the Holy Spirit is calling them to forgive.
- **Step 2:** Write several categories on a whiteboard or easel that best fit your group members and the places they travel: home; neighborhood; office; locker room; mall; social media; or other.
- **Step 3:** Ask your group members to consider placing their Post-it notes underneath the category that represents the location associated with the relationship that needs forgiveness.
- **Step 4:** Ask for volunteers to pray for the events, meetings, and conversations of the upcoming week and for the Holy Spirit to prepare the hearts of those involved.