

LifeGroup Study Sheet**Dec 13th– The Story of Hope – Hope is a Choice**

This guide is designed to help prepare you for group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Pastor Jeff said that a recent study shows that the average person has to make approximately 35,000 choices a day. That's a lot of choices! How often throughout the day do you acknowledge God in your choices? What often deters you from that?

Digging In**Read Matthew 1:18-2:23**

Question 1: Pastor Jeff's first point was "Hope is a choice to believe in a bigger picture." **Read Matthew 1:18-20.** Joseph had a made a plan for his life and then his circumstances changed. How does seeing how Joseph handled his circumstances changing give you perspective in your own life when your plans change?

Question 2: The story of Joseph in the Old Testament (**Gen 37-50**) shows again he believed his life was part of a much bigger story. After several circumstances in Joseph's life went horribly wrong, he trusted God's plan throughout all of it. At the end of the story, Joseph ends up being the man that saves not only his family, but his nation!

How often do you have the "woe-is-me" attitude when your circumstances change? How do you trust God with the bigger story when your life seems to be falling apart? Do you believe God could bring something great out of a difficult circumstance?

Question 3: Pastor Jeff said, "Hope is a choice to trust in a better protector." **Read Matthew 2:13-14.** Joseph responded to God's command with immediate action. Joseph trusted God's plan of protection. Why do we often times trust other people and things more often than we trust God. How have you seen God bless you before when you trusted God's plan immediately? Can you remember a time where you hesitated to trust God's plan and it cost you?

Question 4: Pastor Jeff said, "Hope is a choice to wait for a beautiful promise." **Read Matthew 2:15-21.** Joseph stayed in Egypt until he was told to leave and go back to Israel. When in your life have you seen one of God's promises come to fruition?

Read Proverbs 3:5-7

How does trusting in God's promises produce hope? How have you seen this in your own life? What did you do to help produce hope in your own heart through God's promises?

Taking it Home

Read Joshua 1:8.

Why will meditating on Scripture help you be successful?

What steps will you take today to meditate on God's word?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?