

LifeGroup Study Sheet**Oct 27th – Living the Dream – Genesis 43 and 44**

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your 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

What was the last major change that happened in your life? Whether it was with a relationship, with work, with your kids or school? Was this change something you purposely brought about, or something that you were not wanting to happen? How did your perspective of the change help you deal with it, either for good or worse?

Read John 3:3, 2 Corinthians 3:18, 5:17, 2 Peter 3:18.

Why must a Christ-follower expect change in their lives?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Genesis 43:1-18. Pastor Jeff asked two different questions about the beginning of this passage: Am I Trusting God and Am I Overcoming Temptation? How do you see Jacob/Israel trusting God throughout his conversation with Judah? How does Jacob's perspective change from fear/questioning to prayer and trust? How can your heart learn from this? In what ways were the brothers tempted to lie or give into fear?

Question 2: Read Genesis 43:19-44:16. Pastor Jeff asked two other questions: Am I Speaking Truth and Am I Admitting My Transgressions? The brothers brought the money that was put into their sacks back to Joseph's house to give back, honestly. How do you think they were tempted to keep that money because they needed it? How do think this is a challenge in your own life to speak truth? Joseph's brothers are then "setup" and caught stealing from Joseph's household. How do you see the brothers, specifically Judah, take responsibility for their transgressions? How do you see Judah's offer to take ownership?

Question 3: Read Genesis 44:17-34. Pastor Jeff asks the question "Am I Passing the Test?" We notice in this passage the Judah steps up to take the place for Benjamin. Judah tries to convince Joseph that he should take Benjamin's place instead of Benjamin. How does this act of sacrificial leadership remind you of someone else? How can you apply this principle to your own life?

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?

Today – “Living the dream requires change”
(How to measure the change God requires?)

1. Am I trusting God? (43:1-14)
2. Am I overcoming temptation? (43:15-18)
3. Am I speaking the truth? (43:19-32)
4. Am I admitting my transgressions? (43:33-44:16)
5. Am I passing the tests? (44:17-34)