

Welcome to Week 2 of Better!

The *Better* series continues this week. **Read through this guide and the Sermon Companion in order to select the best questions for your group discussion.** We encourage you to include other questions that will specifically challenge your group.

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

Use the first activity to encourage your group. We often don't see the special things in ourselves that others may see clearly. Make sure this is a positive time where your group can build each other up.

Genesis 39:1-6 paints a clear picture of how Joseph recovers from being sold into slavery by leading where he is and **rising** to a level of prominence. Verses **11 - 23** show another time where Joseph responds to an unfair situation. Yet, he once again rises to a level of authority. **Joseph continues to lead where he is and he leads well.**

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

In **Jeremiah 1:4-8** the author describes God's attention to each individual as he creates them. Jeremiah declares that his youth makes him ineligible for service, God says otherwise. It may be that Jeremiah's age is one of the key reasons that God wants to use him in his circumstance. Help your group to evaluate where they are right now and how they might be used.

Don't let your group miss the **common theme** in these passages. To Jeremiah, God says "I am with you." In Joseph's story, the writer of Genesis says "The Lord was with Joseph." It is important to note that **God is with us** in our circumstances. How we choose to respond is up to us.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

Many people are waiting for things to get better before they start to serve, lead or contribute in any way. It takes maturity to lead where we are without future expectations.

Generational impact is a mature discussion. Society wants to see results now, but this is not always how God works. Joseph suffered for years from injustice before the fulfillment of the promise of God. His faithfulness let him see the fruit of his labor. But God's plan was bigger than just Joseph's life-- God's plan was for a nation and Joseph's legacy helped to build that nation. **Exodus** reveals in verse **8** that there was a Pharaoh who came to power that didn't know Joseph. *That means there were generations of Pharaohs who did.* During that time, Israel was allowed to grow and thrive. **Joseph's legacy lived on because he led faithfully where he was placed.**

