

ELEMENTARY DISCUSSION GUIDE

CHARACTER TRAIT:

PATIENCE

DEFINITION:

Trusting and waiting on God in all things

MEMORY VERSE:

"Yet I am confident I will see the Lord's goodness while I am here in the land of the living. Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord." **PSALM 27:13-14**

FINISH LINE:

God helps us be patient even when we don't understand

READ: GENESIS 37, 39:1-2

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

(OBSERVATION)

1. What do you learn about Joseph and his family from verses 2-4? *(They were shepherds. He told his dad that his brothers were misbehaving. His dad liked Joseph best and gave him a fancy coat. His older brothers were jealous.)*
2. What did Joseph dream? *(He dreamt that his brothers and father bowed down to him. God was giving him promises about the future.)*
3. What did Joseph's brothers first plan to do to him? *(They wanted to kill him.)* What did they end up doing? *(They sold him as a slave and told Jacob, their dad, that he was killed by an animal.)*
4. Where did Joseph end up? *(He became a slave in Egypt.)*

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

(INTERPRETATION)

1. What are some hard things that might have been confusing to Joseph or circumstances that he might not have understood? *(Maybe he did not understand why his brothers were so mean to him, why he had to suffer and be a slave, or why he was taken from his home.)*
2. Does it look like God's promises (from Joseph's dreams) have a good or a bad chance of coming true? Why? *(Bad. Joseph was a slave far from his family.)*
3. Do God's promises always come true right away? *(No.)* Do God's promises always come true at just the right time? *(Yes!)*
4. Look at Genesis 39:1-2. Who was with Joseph and what was He doing? *(The Lord was with Joseph, helping him.)*

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

(APPLICATION)

1. When is it hard for you to be patient and wait on God? Why?
2. Have you ever been in (or are you currently in) a hard situation like Joseph that you did not understand? What happened?
3. What is always true about God even when you do not understand and have to be patient? *(God is with you, sees you, loves you, is in control, wants to help you, etc.)*
4. Who is one person you need to ask God to help you show patience with this week? Is there a situation you need to trust and wait on God for this week?