



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Choose God

Proverbs 4:23; John 10:10; John 16:33; Romans 8:15-17; Genesis 37-50

Context for the Week

This week we began a new series titled *Overcome: Conquering Adversity*. The focus was on how followers of Jesus can respond to adversity with faith rather than despair. We explored how adversity—whether avoidable or unavoidable—can shape us, challenge our faith, or draw us closer to God. Joseph's story in **Genesis 37–50** illustrates how someone can walk through hardship, yet remain faithful and even forgiving. The bottom line: Even when life feels out of control, we must guard our hearts and still choose God. Faith, humility, forgiveness, and perspective can lead to redemption even through betrayal, injustice, and hardship.

Scriptures

- **Proverbs 4:23** (NLT) – Guard your heart above all else. It determines the course of your life.
- **John 10:10** (NLT) – The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.
- **John 16:33** (NLT) – Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows. But take heart, because I have overcome the world.
- **Genesis 50:20** (NLT) – You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good.
- **Romans 5:3–5** (NLT) – Problems/trials help us develop endurance, character, and hope.
- **James 4:7** (NLT) – Humble yourself before God. Resist the devil and he will flee.
- **1 Corinthians 10:13** (NLT) – God is faithful. He does not tempt. He provides a way out.
- **Hebrews 11:1** (TLB) – Faith is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen...the certainty of what we hope for is waiting even when we cannot see it.
- **2 Corinthians 4:18** (NLT) – We fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen...
- **Philippians 4:6–9** (NLT) – Don't worry. Pray. Focus on what is true and honorable...
- **2 Timothy 3:16** (NLT) – All scripture is useful...

Sermon Reflection Questions

- What part of Joseph's story stood out most to you and why?
- Was there a part of the message that spoke directly to something you've experienced?
- Have you faced adversity that tempted you to give up on God or question His goodness?
- What did the message teach you about how God works through adversity?

Discussion Questions

Question 1 – Interpreting Adversity

- Why is it important to guard your heart during adversity (**Proverbs 4:23**)?
- What false beliefs can creep in when we're hurting?
- How do you typically interpret adversity: as a punishment, a test, or something else?

Question 2 – Avoidable vs. Unavoidable Adversity

- How can you tell the difference between avoidable and unavoidable adversity?
- What are some examples of adversity caused by our own decisions?
- Have you seen God redeem adversity?
- Have you ever learned something valuable through adversity—suffering that is avoidable or unavoidable?

Question 3 – Place Your Faith in God

- What does it look like practically to choose God in a hard season?
- What are some things people are tempted to choose instead of God?
- How has your faith grown through difficult times?
- What areas of your life right now require you to trust God more deeply?

Question 4 – Focus on What Is True

- What does it mean to focus on what is true (**Philippians 4:8**)?
- How can Scripture help us stay grounded when emotions or circumstances feel overwhelming?
- What might be an area in your life where the enemy is trying to wear you down?
- How can we actively fight for breakthrough spiritually (prayer, truth, faith, community)?

Question 5 – Forgiveness

- Why can forgiveness be such a key part of overcoming adversity?
- Who do you need to forgive—possibly even yourself or God?
- How does Joseph's decision to forgive shape how we might respond to betrayal or hurt?
- What might be one step you can take this week toward letting go of bitterness?

Closing Reflection and Prayer

Invite group members to reflect on any areas of adversity they are currently facing. Encourage them to identify where they need to place their faith, forgive, or refocus. Pray together for the strength to choose God in every circumstance.