



NEW SERIES

# LIVING IN EXILE

northriverchurch.org



## Small Groups Study Guide

## **Living In Exile**

### **Small Group Study Guide**

Thank you for being willing to lead and care for people in your Small Group! This is not an easy task, but it is an important one. You are leading a group of people to help them engage in community, and encounter God together. This doesn't mean you have to be serious and solemn when you lead, it means that you get to help a group of people learn more of who God is, what He is about, and how we can follow God more fully in our life. This can be a fun and exhilarating adventure!

Below are some things that will help you in your role as the leader:

**Focus of the Series:** When everything around us is changing, we must learn to rely on principles which don't change or move. This series will focus on the several truths to living well in seasons of exile (quarantine).

**Structure of the Study:** The format of the study is broken down into three sections (Share, Study, Symbolize), progressing from easy-conversational questions, exploring the Bible passages, to personal reflection and thought. There are plenty of questions from which to choose from. Do not feel pressured to have to get through every single question in the study. The study was specifically designed in order that you can pick and choose the questions that will be most effective in navigating the discussion. The ultimate goal is for the group to engage in discussion to better understand God's grace together. If there is good dialogue happening, and you only get through a few questions, that's great! If you need more questions to help move the group along, then feel free to use whatever you need.

Some Tips For Leading The Study:

Your role is to be a facilitator. You do not need to be the in-house expert of the Bible, you simply need to lead the group in good discussion. This means speaking less yourself, and giving as many people in your group as possible a chance to share their thoughts and insights.

Silence is OK! Don't get nervous if no one answers the question right away. If too much time goes by (say, 45 second), ask if you need to repeat the question, or if the question was clear.

It's OK if you or the group does not have an answer to a question. If someone asks a difficult question, and the group is unsure of the answer, it's ok to table the question for a week in order to research the answer. Some of Apostle Paul's letters were

responses to questions and problems in the church, and they waited months for an answer!

**Expect God to Show Up:** Most of your prep-time should be prayer-time. Ask God to be present in your group. Invite the Holy Spirit to be present in your group. Ask God to show you where He is working in your group. Pray for the challenging dynamics in the group. Allow God to lead your group's discussion by being open to what is coming to the surface in the discussion. Shepherd the group to engage with what God is doing. Pray that group members don't leave the same way they came!

**Honor Start/Stop Times.** Your group should agree together on when the group should start and end. Honor those times by beginning on-time, and manage the time so you don't go over.

## **Week 9: "When God Uses Evil For Good"**

### **SCRIPTURE: Genesis 50**

**SHARE:** Get the group talking

1. Share a time where someone did something to you that was bad or evil.

**STUDY:** Get the group into the Bible

1. What worried Joseph's brothers after their father died, and what did they do about it?
2. How did Joseph respond to his brothers?
3. We have the benefit of seeing the whole picture of Joseph's story. If you were with Joseph during all of this, what might have you thought about his situation? How would you have supported/encouraged him?
4. What do you think motivated Joseph to respond the way that he did?
5. What makes forgiving someone who has wronged us so difficult?
6. Why is it sometimes hard to accept someone's forgiveness?
7. How can God bring good out of evil?
8. Pastor Todd talked about TIME & PROCESS as the differing factors between our ways & God's ways. How is that so? How have you experienced this in your own life?
9. There was evidence of God in Joseph's life with both Potiphar and the Prison Warden. What evidence of God do people see in your life?

**SYMBOLIZE:** Get the group to reflect on their own life

1. What set of bad circumstances will you ask God to use for good?
2. Who is someone you will forgive today, even without him or her asking you to do so?

