



Discussion Guide
Encounters – Part 6
PARTICIPANT GUIDE

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In Encounters, we'll look at ordinary people in Scripture whose lives were changed by a direct encounter with the presence of God. As we lean into the vision of Coram Deo—living before the face of God—we'll discover that God's presence is not meant to be an occasional experience, but the defining reality that shapes every part of our lives.

NEED A RESOURCE, HAVE A QUESTION, OR WANT TO HAVE A CONVERSATION?
Let us know how we can help! Contact your groups director or discipleship@rockbridge.cc

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"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good..."
[Joseph]

ENGAGE & CONNECT ||

If you knew you had 7 years of plenty then 7 years of famine coming, how would you prepare?

BEGIN WITH PRAYER ||

God, Your everlasting lovingkindness went with Joseph through the good and the bad in his life. Help us to see that it also walks with each of us right here and right now. Amen.

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE ||

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."
[Joshua 1:9]

BIG IDEA ||

Joseph has settled the reality of God's presence, and he lives his life accordingly.

PASSAGE & DISCUSSION || *Genesis 39*

1. What has happened to Joseph that led up to these verses?
2. How is this weird favor—Joseph even being described as handsome in form AND appearance—working to Joseph's benefit AND his misery?
3. How do we see that God is with Joseph, even though things keep getting worse for him?
4. What are some bad things God used to bring Joseph into position to affect a lot of good?
5. Matt mentioned two kinds of love for God in the sermon—born of gratitude (what He's done) and hope (what He might do) and love born from who He is. Which one do you default to?

Why?

6. Matt also listed 3 temptations—appetite, authority, and applause. Which one appeals to you the most?
7. We're going to do a prayer exercise, one you can do anywhere or at any time. To get ready, let's pray together and invite God to bring to light things He wants to work on in us.
8. What is something that has happened to you that was difficult or wrong, but God still allowed it, like the things that happened to Joseph?
9. What is something that you are thankful for that God has brought about in your life, like He did with Joseph?
10. How do each of these things change when they come together?

STEP OF OBEDIENCE ||

As you consider your next step, reflect on: 1) What is settled in your faith? 2) What is still in question that you need to bring to the Lord to be settled?

PRAYER FOCUS ||

“Through the highs and lows of life, through the good and bad, may we see Your hand with us, guiding us, and caring for us with new mercies every morning. Great is Your faithfulness, and we thank You for all of it. Amen.”