

## **NEXT STEPS: HOW CAN YOU OVERCOME YOUR PAST?**

- FACE THE TRUTH.
  - ACCEPT GRACE, NOT GUILT.
  - LIVE WITH THE DOOR OPEN.
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**LOVED WHAT YOU HEARD ON SUNDAY? WANT TO GO DEEPER? THE LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE WILL HELP YOU UNPACK WHAT YOU HEARD ON SUNDAY WHILE DIVING DEEPER INTO GOD'S WORD.**

### **Life Group Study Guide**

1. Were you ever caught in a childhood lie? What was the situation? How did your parents/teacher respond to you?
  2. If Pastor Jason could only share one point from the message, which one would you pick and why?
  3. Sometimes, things from our past can haunt us. Mistakes, failures, traumas, and heartbreaks can trap us in their grasp and rob us of the future that God has for us. When we don't deal with our past and properly address the issues, we often get stuck. Let's take a look at the life of Peter and see how his past got him stuck and how he got unstuck.
- Read the following verses and jot down any insights, questions, or key observations you may have. Matthew 4:18-20; Matthew 16:18; Matthew 26:33-35; John 18:25-26; John 21:3-19

- What was Peter's profession before he became a disciple?
- What did Jesus tell Peter in Matthew 16? What does this mean?
- What was Peter's failure? How do you think he felt?
- After his failure, what did he return to from his past at the cost of his future?
- How was he restored? How did he get unstuck from his past? Why do you think Jesus asked Peter three times? What did Jesus say was in store for Peter's future?

### **Digging Deeper**

1. Is there a sin from your past that God exposed and set you free from? How has God used that experience in your life?
2. Is there anything in your past that is robbing you of the future God has for you? What steps do you need to take to let go?

# LIFE'S TOUGH QUESTIONS: THE STORY OF JOSEPH

OCTOBER 30, 2016 // GENESIS 42:1-39



## “CAN YOU OVERCOME YOUR PAST?”

TO MOVE YOU INTO YOUR **DESTINY**,

GOD WILL LEAD YOU TO YOUR **PAST**.

**Genesis 42:1-11** When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, “Why do you look at one another?” <sup>2</sup> And he said, “Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die.” <sup>3</sup> So ten of Joseph’s brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. <sup>4</sup> But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph’s brother, with his brothers, for he feared that harm might happen to him. <sup>5</sup> Thus the sons of Israel came to buy among the others who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan. <sup>6</sup> Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph’s brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. <sup>7</sup> Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. “Where do you come from?” he said. “From the land of Canaan, to buy food.” <sup>8</sup> And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. <sup>9</sup> And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them. And he said to them, “You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land.” <sup>10</sup> They said to him, “No, my lord, your servants have come to buy food.” <sup>11</sup> We are all sons of one man. We are honest men. Your servants have never been spies.”

GOD IN HIS GRACE WILL EXPOSE YOUR **PAST**.

A HIDDEN PAST CAN LEAVE US PARALYZED WITH **FEAR** OR **GUILT**.

**Genesis 42:12- 25** He said to them, “No, it is the nakedness of the land that you have come to see.” <sup>13</sup> And they said, “We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan, and behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is no more.” <sup>14</sup> But Joseph said to them, “It is as I said to you. You are spies. <sup>15</sup> By this you shall be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here. <sup>16</sup> Send one of you, and let him bring your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. Or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies.” <sup>17</sup> And he put them all together in custody for three days. <sup>18</sup> On the third day Joseph said to them, “Do this and you will live, for I fear God: <sup>19</sup> if you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined where you are in custody, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households, <sup>20</sup> and bring your youngest brother to me. So your words will be verified, and you shall not die.” And they did so. <sup>21</sup> Then they said to one another, “In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of

his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us.” <sup>22</sup> And Reuben answered them, “Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood.” <sup>23</sup> They did not know that Joseph understood them, for there was an interpreter between them. <sup>24</sup> Then he turned away from them and wept. And he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes. <sup>25</sup> And Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, and to replace every man’s money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. This was done for them.

## CONFRONTING OUR PAST...

- LEADS US TO **ACTION**.
- LEADS US TO DISCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT **OURSELVES**.

**Genesis 42:26-28** Then they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed. <sup>27</sup> And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money in the mouth of his sack. <sup>28</sup> He said to his brothers, “My money has been put back; here it is in the mouth of my sack!” At this their hearts failed them, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, “What is this that God has done to us?”

NOT DEALING WITH THE **PAST** ROBBS US OF OUR **FUTURE**.  
INSTEAD WE END UP...

- **BURYING** IT.
- BLAMING **OTHERS**.
- BLAMING **OURSELVES**.

**Genesis 42:29-38** When they came to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying, <sup>30</sup> “The man, the lord of the land, spoke roughly to us and took us to be spies of the land. <sup>31</sup> But we said to him, ‘We are honest men; we have never been spies.’ <sup>32</sup> We are twelve brothers, sons of our father. One is no more, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.” <sup>33</sup> Then the man, the lord of the land, said to us, ‘By this I shall know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me, and take grain for the famine of your households, and go your way. <sup>34</sup> Bring your youngest brother to me. Then I shall know that you are not spies but honest men, and I will deliver your brother to you, and you shall trade in the land.’” <sup>35</sup> As they emptied their sacks, behold, every man’s bundle of money was in his sack. And when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were afraid. <sup>36</sup> And Jacob their father said to them, “You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin. All this has come against me.” <sup>37</sup> Then Reuben said to his father, “Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you. Put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you.” <sup>38</sup> But he said, “My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left. If harm should happen to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol.”