



## WEEK 2: BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Welcome to the week two small group guide for the At the Movies series. We didn't have a study guide for week 1, so don't worry, you didn't miss anything. As we continue in this series, we hope that each week's discussion will be an opportunity for you and your group to dig deeper into each weekend's sermon and discover what God has for you.

**If you were unable to watch the sermon last weekend**, please make sure you catch the replay on Wednesday at 7 PM at [firstdecatour.org](http://firstdecatour.org).



### START

I am excited to announce that we have some brand-new small groups joining us this fall. If that happens to be your group, we want to welcome you to this journey we are each on. Whether you are beginning your first year together or your twentieth year together, **please start this week by answering the questions below.**

- ▶ We recognize that the global pandemic has altered many of our plans. We also have noticed the blessings amid the challenges. In light of that, as you begin your conversation today, please take a minute for each person to share his or her favorite memory from this summer. What made that memory so special?
- ▶ The purpose of any Grow Together is to help one another grow to be more like Christ. Have each person in your group share one way they hope to grow this year through the small group experience.

**Now that you are warmed up, let's dive in.**



### JOSEPH

As Pastor Brian mentioned in the sermon, the account of Joseph's life takes up the last 14 chapters of the book of Genesis. These chapters record the remarkable account of Joseph's life. It all begins with

Joseph's brothers plotting to kill him, and instead settling for selling him into slavery in a foreign country. To help wrap your mind around this, take a few minutes to **read Genesis 37:17-27** as a group.

These verses tell a story of incredible betrayal. As Pastor Brian said, Joseph's brothers were supposed to hold the role in his life of **love, support, and protection**, but they did precisely the opposite. Many of us have experienced similar moments of betrayal in our lives. If we're honest, many of us have been the betrayers as well. With this in mind, take the time to answer the questions below as a group.

- ▶ As you think about the verses we read just a moment ago, what word or phrase stuck out to you? What is significant about that word or phrase?
- ▶ Put yourself in Joseph's place. How would you have felt? What questions would have been on your mind?
- ▶ This weekend, Pastor Brian mentioned the phrase "Hurting people, hurt people." What does that mean? How have you seen that play out in your story?
- ▶ Take a minute to think about someone in your life who was supposed to give you love, support, and protection, but didn't, much like Joseph's brothers. In the movie, Mr. Rogers is quoted as saying that forgiveness is *"a decision we make to release a person from the feelings of anger we have at them. It's strange, but sometimes its hardest of all to forgive someone we love."* Without sharing the details of the situation you thought of, why was (or is) forgiving that person so tough? What does it look like to release someone from the anger we have at them?

**Joseph's brothers selling him was the first of many injustices that occurred in Joseph's life.** Yet, as he navigated each betrayal, God ended up using it for good in his life. In the long run, not only was Joseph able to forgive his brothers, but God used him to save the lives of his brothers and their families. In Genesis 45, we see Joseph being united with his brothers many years after they betrayed him. By this point, Joseph was the second in command in all of Egypt, and his brothers were coming to him to get food to feed their starving families. **Read Genesis 45:1-7 together as a group.**

- ▶ God used Joseph's incredible pain to bring remarkable good. Similarly, in the movie, Mr. Rogers showed Lloyd how good could come from his pain. How has God used the hurt in your life to bring about good? How might he want to do that in the situation you thought of just a few minutes ago?
- ▶ One of the reasons Joseph could forgive his brothers, and allow God to redeem his pain, is because he knew God loved him deeply. What does it mean to you to know that God loves you deeply? How could that impact the way you think about the pain and disappointment in your life?



## WATCH THE VIDEO

I'm so grateful for Pastor Brian's vulnerability in sharing his experience with a counselor and all that he learned. As he mentioned, when we bury our emotions and the stories that contribute to them, they have a high resurrection rate. In other words, until we address our hurt, pain, and disappointment,

make sense of them, and then choose to respond with forgiveness, those hurts, pain, and disappointments will keep us from renewing our minds (Romans 12:2)

- ▶ As Pastor Brian said, we realize this is a deep topic to start with, but it's an important one. We all experience hurt in different ways and are at various places on the journey of forgiveness. As you think about all we have discussed this week, share one take-away with your group. What is one step you need to take this week in response to what we've discussed?
- ▶ As you close your time together, take time to share prayer requests, and pray for one another.