



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

May 24/27, 2018

Disappointed with God

**BIG IDEA: Don't allow yesterday's disappointments to become tomorrow's expectations.**

## GROUPS VISION

We believe life transformation happens when we engage with other people, with Jesus as our focus, and take next steps together. A next step is where we Ask, Listen, and Respond to take any action that advances our journey with Jesus.

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## KEY VERSE

And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

Romans 5:5

## POTENTIAL NEXT STEP

This week take time to reflect on how much God loves you and favors you. Write out some of these verses and think about them as you go through your daily routine. Watch how your perspective changes and hope fills your heart.

1John 4:16  
 Psalm 136:1  
 2Timothy 2:13  
 Romans 8:28

## MAIN POINTS & SCRIPTURES

The Old Testament hero, Joseph, experienced wave after wave of disappointment but he never became hopeless. Here are a few thoughts on resolving disappointment in a godly way;

1. **Don't allow disappointments with life to become disappointment with God.** A great temptation we face is to project our disappointments on God, to allow the pain of our circumstances to cause us to question God's character. **(Matthew 11:2-6)** Joseph refused to become disappointed with God, and he didn't lose his hope. **(Genesis 39:9, 40:8, 41:16, 45:4-5, 50:20)** We overcome disappointment by holding onto the promises of God, worshipping, remembering He is with us, and never giving up. **(Habakkuk 3:17-19, Psalm 27:14TPT)** Anything in our lives, which has been stolen, killed, or destroyed was done by the kingdom of darkness, not God. Jesus offers life and hope in the midst of pain. **(John 10:10)** Disappointment in God is evident when we stop praying and worshipping, when we become skeptical or critical and when we begin to believe our current circumstances are as good as it gets. Our focus needs to be on what we know about God; God is love. **(1John 4:16)** God is good. **(Psalm 136:1)** God is faithful. **(2 Timothy 2:13)** God wants the best for us. **(Romans 8:28)** God will do more than we can imagine but not necessarily what we want. **(Ephesians 3:20)** There are times when we have to embrace the mystery of not being able to understand our circumstances and trust what God is doing is for our good and His glory. **(Daniel 3:17-18)** When we realize we are disappointed with God, we should confess and repent and continue to become rooted in Jesus. **(1 John 1:9, Acts 3:19)**
2. **When you know you have the favor of your Father you will always have hope.** Joseph began his life with the favor of his father; he knew he was loved. **(Genesis 37:3)** The story of Joseph is a prophetic picture of Jesus and the Christian life. **(Matthew 3:17NKJV)** The moment we are born again, the Father speaks His approval and favor over us and gives us a robe of righteousness. **(Isaiah 61:10NKJV)** Love gives us hope and hope gives us faith. **(1 Corinthians 13:13, 1 John 3:16, Hebrews 11:1)** We often forget we're loved, but genuine hope comes from unconditional love. **(Romans 5:5)** God isn't disappointed with us; we have His favor. **(2 Corinthians 5:21, Ephesians 2:8-9)** Favor doesn't come from what we do, it comes from what Jesus has done. **(Titus 2:12-14TPT)**
3. **Don't let yesterday's disappointments become tomorrow's expectations.** Often, we project yesterday's disappointments on today's circumstances and we expect to be disappointed. God uses our past pain for our future purpose. The places where we have experienced disappointment, but refused to lose hope, are where we have the most authority and where we'll be the most fruitful. **(Hebrews 11:1, Genesis 41:50-52, Genesis 50:20-21)**

## DISCUSSION

1. When you are disappointed, how do you refocus on the goodness of God?
2. God is not disappointed in you. You are not an unmet expectation. The first time you heard these statements how did it strike your heart? How does it strike your heart now?
3. We can trust what God is doing is for our good and His glory. Have you ever been disappointed only to realize God used the situation for your good?
4. **What is the Holy Spirit saying to you? What is your next step?**