



Small Group Curriculum

Dreaming Wide Awake: When Opportunity Knocks • WEEK 5 • Genesis 41

Making our way in this world is immeasurably difficult. We do not get to decide where we come from, who our family is nor which obstacles will come our way. Needless to say the years start coming and they don't stop coming. We are fed to the rules and hit the ground running. As it turns out, all that glitters is not gold. We may try to follow after God but His timing and our own progress and efforts in life seldom seem to overlap. How then do we balance making progress, following God, waiting on Him and actually being able to realize when opportunity is knocking? Perhaps we must also ponder when we hear the knocking of opportunity, who or what is on the other side doing the knocking?

REMINDERS

- We want to hear from you! If you haven't had the chance to complete the church-wide survey yet, please do so here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LJLB2B7>
- Awakening 201 is a four-week membership class specifically crafted to guide you through a clear and practical pathway to growing as a follower of Jesus.
 - Dates: Sunday, November 2nd, 9th, 16th, & 23rd
 - Time: 11:15am – 12:30pm
 - Location: The Staff Lounge at Del Mar
 - Registration: <https://awakening.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3186730>
- Two part-time job positions at Awakening are available: Kids Assistant & Space Director. If you or someone you know is interested, role descriptions and contact info can be found here: <https://awakeningchurch.com/jobs/>

ICEBREAKER

What was a time that someone unexpectedly knocked on your door? Was it a solicitor trying to “upgrade” your cable and internet service, a girl scout selling cookies, a missionary, a long lost friend or perhaps someone coming to make amends (this never happens so if it did please tell, we all want you to spill the tea)? How did you respond?

INTRODUCTION

Jesus makes it quite clear that those that follow him will face troubles (John 16) and there is much in this world that we cannot bear to fathom. The heart of the people of God has been tested through time to lean on Him for deliverance (Exo 3:7-8), for provision (1Kings 17), for healing (Num 21:8-9) and comfort (Isa 41:10). While the heart of God clearly desires to redeem His people, why is it that we still experience bondage to sin, emptiness, hunger, sickness, suffering, tribulation and war? Where do we find ourselves amidst the internal storms as well as global chaos?

A W A K E N I N G

DISCUSSION

For Group Leaders: There are plenty of scriptures and discussion questions. You know your group and their needs. Feel free to dive into scripture and sit on any questions that need the time. Don't rush through for the sake of consuming the content. If you're having trouble with time, prioritize the scripture over every question. Blessings to you as you lead.

READ: Jeremiah 29:1-14

Context: The Israelites were in exile after turning away from God. They were removed from their homeland and were to live under the oppressive hand of the Babylonians. The oft used Jer 29:11 is not a verse meant as a promise to Christians under the New Covenant through Jesus, but a promise to the people of God specifically during the Babylonian exile that there is a hope and future beyond the oppression of His people. It is also a reminder to humanity that God had not forgotten His promise to Abraham (Gen 12:3). We who are in Jesus are living in the fulfillment of both of these promises of God.

- Knowing that we are living in the blessing of God the Father through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, how does this change how you perceive God's timing?
- What does it say about the heart of God that he would continue His good work for millenia for the sake of your salvation? (Ref. Matt 10:30, Psa 139:13)

READ: Matthew 5:1-12 (The Beatitudes)

- After reading this, which of the beatitudes do you resonate most with?
- Which promise that Jesus offers is something that you need to cling to for hope?
- God has always kept His promises, what feels difficult for you right now about trusting any of these promises? Is there anything in your own life that is causing you pain or doubt? Is there something happening in the world that causes you to wonder?
(We all have different backgrounds and perspectives. Group leaders should make an effort to make this moment safe to share as people may be vulnerable and have perspectives that are adverse to other's views. *Reminder, as Christians we are to bear with one another in all things [Col 3:13, Gal 6:2] and do so in love [1 Cor 13:4-7]*)

READ: Matthew 25:14-30

- Answering when opportunity knocks is effective when the promises of God intersect with our present situation and is activated by our faithful action in response to God's faith. What has God placed in your hands that you are currently called to be faithful with?
- What is currently in your care that you are squandering like the servant who buried their talent?
- What has God placed before you that you haven't picked up yet or that you're hesitant to move forward with? What is holding you back?

A W A K E N I N G

RESPONSE

God's promises are eternal and touch every point of time and space. God's meticulous sovereignty covers every aspect of our lives. Our faith becomes alive when we act upon the gift of grace that Jesus has lavished upon us (James 2:17). His good and perfect will is good and perfect all of the time and does not operate according to our own time table. When we humbly submit to the will of God and His timing, we can more appropriately glorify His name. Take one step as you go from here and set a reminder in your phone between one and three times a day as a reminder to be faithful with what God has given you (ex. spending time in the Bible, meditating on what Jesus is doing in your life, investing in time with your kids, praying for a friend, catching up with your parents, caring for a neighbor, etc.)

PRAYER

Go around and share what you need prayer for concerning the worries or difficulty in your life or other things we haven't mentioned. Don't forget to give praise and thanks for what God has done/ is doing in your life too!

Closing prayer:

God in heaven, you hold all of time in your hand and are far beyond our own understanding. Help our lack of understanding and our need for control by submitting to your good and perfect will. May we always hold fast to your promises and truth, knowing that you will work out all things within your will in your own time. Inspire us to faithfully act with love and generosity with what you have placed in our hands. May we never forget that you are both the master of the Universe as well as our Heavenly Father who knows each of the hairs on our head. May we forever live in your love and peace. Help us to decipher when there is a knock at the door of our lives whether it is your will. Remind our hearts to be still and know that you are God, testing all that this world throws at us against your Word and your will, that we may not be led astray. Guide our steps LORD; for we need you every moment.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

JOURNAL PROMPT: In a moment, Joseph went from the prison to the palace. What felt like wasted years were actually God's training ground. How we live today is the training ground that will make us ready when opportunity knocks. Take time this week to ask God for His vision of your present circumstances and how He is preparing you for future opportunities. What might be true of you when opportunity knocks? Seek His guidance for how He is forming you and your character in present circumstances. Ask the Lord for help being faithful in the day to day and to highlight how He has been faithful to you.

Note: Bible passages found [here](#).