

CONNECT GROUP **LEADER GUIDE**  
*HEADS UP! #5 Shining with Exemplary Submission*



**BEGIN WITH YOUR HEART**

You can imagine there's more to the story. But, what if you're the dad? What do you say? How do you encourage? This question brings some practical answers and it also stirs up some emotional answers as well. Make sure you touch on both as your group answers. You may want to challenge your group to answer as a friend, a grandparent, or an older sibling if that is more fitting for your group.

**A LOOK AT THE WORD**

**Joseph** – If the story of Joseph is very familiar to your group, this will be an easier exercise. If you suspect it isn't to anyone in the group, ask someone who is familiar with the story to share a quick retelling of the life of Joseph with the group. As you think about the almost unimaginable trials that Joseph faced at the hands of people close to him, encourage your group again to discuss the emotional toll these betrayals must have had on him. Consider how you might have handled the situations he faced. Put yourself in his shoes.

**Jesus** – Jesus serves as our ultimate example of submission to the Father's plan, no matter the cost.

Here are some references to Jesus' response to unfair treatment, showing His trust in His Father:

Luke 23:34 – Father forgive them, for they know not what they do; Isaiah 53:7 – He did not open His mouth; Matthew 5:44 – Love your enemies ...

**MY LIFE- OUR MISSION**

**Purposeful Responsiveness** – Don't get to the "right" answer so quickly that you don't give people a chance to wrestle with the question. I have found that while some people find great comfort in their relational struggles to be reminded that "God has a purpose and a plan for everything", others have the exact opposite reaction. They struggle to understand how the pain or betrayal they experience could possibly build their trust in God. The very real and emotional question lingers strongly for them, "What greater good could possibly be worth the pain this person is causing me?" Looking at the responses of Joseph and Jesus does not downplay the pain or attempt to weigh if the pain was "worth" the good that came from it. But those two men trusted God through very painful situations and it was honoring to God. Meet people where they are at in their response to this study.

**PRAY** – Take time tonight to especially pray over someone in the group who is or has been in a relational struggle. Pray that they would shine through this season because of their trust and submission to a loving God.

**Christ Community Church - Announcements**

- Ⓞ **Launch** | Calling all 3rd, 4th and 5th graders! Wednesdays beginning OCT 5, 6:30-8:00p in Connect Z. Through reading and navigating the Bible together discover how the Word ignites and empowers our life with God.
- Ⓞ **Seminar in Christian Theology** | Monday nights from SEP 26-DEC 5, 2016. Begins at 7:00pm and finishes up at 8:15pm. Room C1. Pick up a flyer for registration at the Start Here desk.

**SERVE - CHURCH**

- Ⓞ Blinks Volunteers Needed on Sunday afternoons, and Wednesdays, both morning and evenings, for various shifts. Barista training is available. Contact Marilyn Rohlf to find out more information [jammr@isunet.net or 515-203-1018].

**SERVE - COMMUNITY**

- Ⓞ Families needed to host small groups of 6-8 college students for dinner in their home on Saturday, OCT 8, 5:15p - 7:30p during the Navigators Main Event Conference. Sign up to host at [www.navsmainevent.org](http://www.navsmainevent.org).