

No Filter #6:

The Joy of Uncertainty

Word

Scripture Reference

Genesis 45:16–50:26

Discussion Questions

1. Share an experience where you had to deal with something unexpected and uncertain. What would you change about it if you were to go back and do it again?
2. Life is very uncertain. Regardless of your well-thought-out plans, things could happen differently and go beyond your control. Read Genesis 45:16–50:26. We see from this passage three people who each experienced a level of uncertainty when things went differently from what they were expecting. First is Jacob, who could hardly believe that his son Joseph was alive after years thinking he was dead and was worried about moving his family from Canaan to Goshen in Egypt. What do you think could Jacob be worrying about? What uncertainties that the future may bring makes you anxious?
3. When life is uncertain, you can find joy through the assuring Words of God. What did God promise to Jacob on his journey to Egypt (v. 46:1-4)? Do you believe that God's promises have no geographic boundaries? Why do you think so? Read the following scriptural verses that assure you of God's presence in your life anytime, anywhere: (a) Isaiah 43:1; (b) John 10:14-15; (c) Hebrews 13:5; (d) Isaiah 41:10; (e) Lamentations 3:37. Which among these verses meet your needs right now?
4. Towards the end of his life, Jacob blessed the sons of Joseph, favoring Ephraim with the birthright of the firstborn over Manasseh who was actually older (v. 48:1-21). Discuss why Jacob's actions upset Joseph. Would you be upset when your plans didn't happen as you wanted it to happen? Share and discuss.
5. When things don't go according to your plans or things happen against what you consider the normal way, you can find joy when you recognize that God has a unique design for you. In Joseph's family, God chose to give the firstborn's birthright to the younger son (Isaac over Ishmael, Jacob over Esau, Joseph over Reuben, and Ephraim over Manasseh). We can see here

that God does not operate like man does. He is not bound by the rules and traditions of men; men's ways are not God's ways. He creates originals, not copies; and He gives us our own shoes so that we don't have to fill other people's shoes. Have you recognized God's unique design for your life? Did your life turn out the way you wanted it to be when you were a lot younger? Share with the group.

6. We also see from the passage that Joseph's brothers were worried about what will happen to them now that Jacob their father is dead (v. 50:15-21). What amazing truth about God's sovereignty did Joseph declare to assure his brothers?
7. When you're worried about what life will bring you, you can find joy by looking through the lenses of God's sovereignty. Discuss how living in uncertainty would help you to understand what faith is all about. How does trusting God's sovereignty give you joy in your life's journey?

Walk

*'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, and to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise, and to know, "Thus says the Lord!"*

Joseph lived 110 years and saw his great, great grandchildren. He lived in uncertainty—from being a slave, to a prisoner, to a prime minister, but He trusted that God was the One who was in ultimate control. Are you a person who wants to know everything ahead of you? What do you think would life be like for you if you knew everything? How does trusting God play an important role in your life as you live each day? Describe how living in uncertainty gives more fulfillment and enjoyment in your life compared with knowing what's going to happen.

Worship & Prayer

Pray for...

- For God's people to have a meaningful Spirit-filled Holy Week.
- Overflowing grace for the newly baptized Christians to faithfully live for Christ.
- Blessings upon the 14th GCCP Family Conference. Safety of all the participants.
- Ongoing preparations for the Cebu and Shanghai ministry trips.
- Good health for Baby Layla and Baby Lim.
- Healing & salvation for Eduardo, Mr. Lao, IB, FW, Chua Ting Ting, AQ, Mr. Tio, Rose Ann, Nenita, Margarita, Rosa Gan.
- Blessings for the 2015 graduates.