



## Wonderlife, Pt. 2: My Whole Story Matters

No matter how you feel about you, God delights in you! To say that out loud feels a bit awkward because we know how messed up our stories are. There are entire chapters of our lives that we would like to delete or pretend as if they never happened. But what if those are the very chapters that God wants to use most? God will heal and use whatever you surrender to him.

**Bottom Line:** Jesus can redeem the broken pieces of your story and turn them into something beautiful.

### Discussion Questions

1. What struggles have you been through that others might have also experienced? Went broke, lost someone close to you, lost a job, failed relationship, self-doubt, loneliness, betrayal, depression, kid problems, addiction, abuse of some kind? Other \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Describe a time where you felt God was absent from your difficult experience. How does Romans 8:35-39 reframe your experience?
3. Joseph was the favorite son of a wealthy man, Jacob (Genesis 37:2-4). But Joseph's brothers hated him and instead of killing him sold him into slavery (Genesis 37:12-36). While a slave, he was accused of attempted rape and was thrown into prison (Genesis 39:20). As these horrific events unfold, the text says that God was with him (Genesis 39:2, 21, 23). After years, Joseph was released from prison and put in charge of Egypt's efforts to stockpile food in preparation for a severe famine (Genesis 41). When famine hit, Joseph's brothers went to Egypt to buy food and end up in his presence (Genesis 42-44).

Read Genesis 45:1-8. What is your reaction to how Joseph responded to his brothers? On Joseph's perspective on the trauma he experienced because of their actions?

4. What are you learning about your story? Are there parts you still want to ignore?
5. What part of your story do you need to surrender to God? Does the prospect of surrendering the painful parts of your story give you hope or make you anxious? Why?
6. Read Romans 8:28. How have you experienced the promise of this passage?
7. What has been the most helpful thought/idea from the message this week? How has that thought/idea helped you?
8. How can the group encourage you this week?

\*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.