



Throughout our lives, circumstances and people can hurt or disadvantage us. We can feel that we are the victims in our difficult situations. But if we look at these struggles from the right vantage point, they can become powerful tools in God's hands to shape us into overcomers. In this series, we're going to gain insight into how we can move from being victims to overcomers as we look at how God's plan unfolds in the life of Joseph.

**Week Seven:** Maintaining God's Vantage Point

**Text:** Genesis 45-50

How do we maintain a God-centered perspective for the long haul? Maybe there was a time we were clear about God's promises, His purposes, His plans for us. But the path our life has taken doesn't seem to line up. What then? When we cry out to God, "What is Your purpose here?" how does he reply? He reminds us of His promises. He teaches us to submit to His sovereignty. And He transforms us to expend His grace to others.

**Discussion Questions:** These three larger questions will drive our discussion:

1. What did the Holy Spirit say to you through Sunday's sermon and the associated passage?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can others in the group help you and pray for you so you can do what God told you to do?

**What did the Holy Spirit say to you through the sermon?**

- Talk about a time when you made a decision to change but ended up falling back into old patterns. What happened? What did that experience teach you?

- Why does God remind Jacob of His promise to their family? How does recalling God's promises help us maintain His vantage point?
- Why are Joseph's brothers unable to maintain God's vantage point?
- How is Joseph able to extend grace to his brothers and their families?

### **What are you going to do about it?**

- What promise of God has helped you most over the years?
- What in your life do you tend to assign "sovereignty" to? (What seems like the controlling factor in your world?)
- What would it look like to submit to God's sovereignty in that area instead?
- How could submitting to God's sovereignty help you extend grace to others?

### **How can others in this group help you or pray for you?**

- Share an area of your life where it is hard for you to see God at work. Ask your group for suggestions about a promise of God that applies to that situation, if you are unsure.

### **Possible Application:**

- Create a personal practice of asking God, "Show me Your purpose," whenever you face unsettling circumstances. Such a life pattern can help foster the expectation in your heart that there IS a purpose, that God IS in control even if you can't see what it is.
- Join in HCBC's <https://www.hcbc.com/prayer/> for Unity starting tonight: November 29 at 6pm.

### **MEMORY VERSE**

*You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.*

Genesis 50:20