

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 4 WEEK 9



9 December 2010

JOSEPH – AN AMAZING LIFE

Finishing Strong

Ice-breaker

'The year 2010 – the good, the great and the ugly!' Share the dreams you had at the beginning of 2010. What were you trusting the Lord for, personally and professionally? Have these come to pass? To what extent have you finished strong this year?

- * Take note of those who have had a particularly tough year and be prepared to minister to needs flowing out of this during the personal prayer time.

Worship

See worship booklet.

Word and Discussion

Joseph was a great example of someone who finished strong! He had a particular ability to complete tasks. Some examples from his life are:

- Managing Potiphar's estate – Genesis 39:5-6.
- Overseeing the prison – Genesis 39:22-23.
- Overseeing the collection of the harvest during the years of plenty, and the distribution during the famine – Genesis 41:35-37; 47:26.
- Finishing with faith and determination, conscious of God's promises and plans to return His people to the Promised Land – Genesis 50:22-26.
 - Discuss the characteristics that caused Joseph to finish strong (faith in God, care for people, knowing God's plans and purposes, attention to detail and being able to keep the big picture in mind).
 - How can we ensure that we finish strong?
 - How can we approach the next couple of weeks as a preparation to starting 2011 in a better place than we started 2010?

- * Let's encourage each other to keep our sights on God and not on our circumstances.

Conclusion

We all want to finish strong! We can be encouraged by Joseph's testimony to also build disciplines and faith into our lives. Let's end the year with our focus clearly set on our Lord Jesus Christ – the author and finisher of our faith. Let's go into the holiday season and 2011 with faith that God will help us to finish strong.

Prayer

Personal prayer

Pray for each other in two areas (form smaller groups to save time):

- For those who found 2010 particularly challenging; pray for healing, restoration and faith for a prosperous future – Jeremiah 29:11-13.
- Spend some time waiting on the Lord for words of encouragement, specifically for the year that lies ahead.

Corporate prayer

Lord, give us the grace to see the past and the future through Your eyes, to trust You to work all things for our good and to know that You have great plans for our future!