

***Faith that Doesn't Limit Almighty God* — November 5 & 6, 2016**  
**Follow-up Bible Studies**

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Written by Maggie Baxter

**Day One: Genesis 50:15-21**

- Upon their father's death, what did Joseph's brothers fear (15)? In response, what plan did they execute (16-17)? In chapter 37 they tried to kill Joseph; here they deceive him. Can you at all relate to repeated failures like this? What toll do they take on you? Talk to the Lord about this. What do you sense him speaking in return?
- How did Joseph respond to the message his brothers sent (18)? When his brothers came to him, how did they behave (18)? What did they say (18)? What reassurances did Joseph offer (19-21)? In what tone of voice (21)? Describe how God's intentions proved mightier than Joseph's brothers' schemes (20).
- What do you think made it possible for Joseph to forgive his brothers and spare them from the consequences of their actions? How does his response point to the Lord's ability to transform life's messes into something good? Give thanks to almighty God for at least one of the ways he's done this for you.

**Day Two: Psalm 126**

- What is the psalmist remembering (1)? What was it like for God's people during that time (1-2)? What did this cause Israel and other nations to proclaim (2-3)?
- Meditate on the phrase, "we were like those who dreamed." Do you allow your age or season in life to limit your view of what God can do? Unpack this a bit with the Lord. What shifts in mindset or spiritual practices can transform the phrase into present tense: "I am one who dreams." Make a plan to move in this direction.
- What does the psalmist want to see restored (4)? What does he want to be different for those who weep (5-6)? Consider God's ability to surprise with the new: new promises, new destinies, etc. As you do so, visualize the farming imagery in these verses. What jumps out at you? How does this impact you?

**Day Three: Isaiah 62**

- Why does the Lord refuse to keep silent (1)? Describe the picture he paints of his people's salvation (1-5, 11-12). What do you make of all the name changes? What do they symbolize about God's limitless ability to transform? Which one moves you the most? Why? What is your own testimony about such transformation? This week, tell someone this story and pray for a good impact.
- As God's people await salvation, what must they do (6-7)? What are some of the Lord's "never again" promises (8-9)? How should the people prepare for this time and this new name (10)? Re-read verses 6-7 and 10. What do they convey about what the Lord desires you do while you wait for him to act and to display his almighty nature? Do you need to keep calling on him, giving him no rest? Do you need to prepare others? Ask the Holy Spirit for some direction and pray for grace to walk this out.

**Day Four: Jeremiah 2:1-3**

- What happened to Jeremiah (1)? What did God tell him to do (2)? How did the prophecy begin (2)? What did the Lord remember (2)? What were his people like in "the devotion of their youth" (2)?
- What do you think of the juxtaposed imagery that describes this devotion: a loving bride and then someone walking through the unknown wilderness? What is God speaking to you through this description? Is your loyalty to him energetic and hopeful? Or does it waver because of impatience? Do you place no limits on God? Or do you draw a faith

line with him, telling him you'll go only so far? Repent of any ways your faith doesn't fit the description in verse two. Ask God to grow your faith and give you a heart and mind that refuses to limit him.

- What does the Lord think of his people (3)? How does he describe them (3)? What does he do to those that harm his people (3)? Do you consider this proclamation and promise applicable to you today? If so, what are some of the ways God makes it known?

#### **Day Five: 2 Peter 1:3-11**

- What makes it possible to live a godly life (3)? What accompanies the experience of the Lord's glory and goodness (4)? What do these promises mean in terms of connection to God and trappings of the world (4)? What "evil desire" in your own life is no longer much of a struggle thanks to the power, glory, and goodness of God? Praise the Lord for this transformation and ask him for more.
- Because of all of this – knowledge of God, his power, his glory, his goodness, and his promises – what should we make every effort to do (5-7)? What does such growth help us to do (8)? What plagues those who lack these qualities (9)? In what aspects of your faith do you refuse to be passive, but instead "make every effort" to grow? Spend a minute in silence; taking this moment to sense how pleased the Lord is with you.
- How does Paul sum up what we should "make every effort" to do (10)? What happens when we do so (10-11)? Notice how twice Paul tells us to "make every effort." Pray now for grace to be relentlessly active in pursuing spiritual growth.