



## Theme: God wants to use our key life experiences for our good and the benefit of others!

You are a unique combination of numerous factors. We're summarizing these factors in an acronym based on the word *DESIGN*:  
Desires + Experiences + Skills + Individuality + spiritual Gifts = Niche (what it is that God shaped and formed us to do).

Today we want to look at the second of these five factors: How God has custom-designed the experiences that help define who you are. He wants to use your key experiences for your good and for the benefit of others.

## Gathering Together »

Talk about a time when you “got the giggles.” What was the result (examples: embarrassment, made others laugh, etc.)?

## Growing Together »

### 1. Read Genesis 50:15-21

Based on your reading, fill in the blanks below:

Brothers intended to h\_\_\_\_\_ Joseph.  
God intended Joseph's life experiences for g\_\_\_\_\_ (vs.18-21).

2. How did God use Joseph's trials to benefit other people?
3. Compare Joseph's experience to Paul's experience in 2 Corinthians 1:3-11. How do these correlate?
4. How has God used your life experiences to benefit others? This may involve both difficult and positive life experiences.

## Getting Real with One Another »

Reference your “*Discovering My Experiences*” assessment tool.

1. In your personal exercises, there are four types of experiences: (1) Family and Relational Experiences (2) Educational Experiences (3) Spiritual Experiences (4) Vocational Experiences. Share a positive experience in one of these areas. How did this bring you joy, and how has God used that in shaping who you are?
2. Tell about one of your painful experiences. Did the experience make you better or bitter? Why? How do you see God's hand in this experience?
3. How have your experiences become a catalyst for:
  - Getting to know God better
  - Preparing you to minister to others
  - Helping you rely on God's power
  - Increasing your faith in God's promises
  - Encouraging others in prayer and praise

## Group Prayer Time »

Continue to pray that each person would come to understand his/her DESIGN and be willing to serve.

