

LIFE GROUP GUIDE

JOSEPH – A LEADER IN TRAINING

GOALS

- Christ-Followers would have a deeper sense of God working in and through situations that don't seem to make sense

TIPS

- When diving into Old Testament narratives, the point is not “be like Joseph”, or “don't be like the brothers”. They are not parables or myths to tell us a moral. These are historical events. Quite like today, we cannot put simple labels on the characters.
- Whilst we are talking about Joseph as the central character in this part of Genesis, the true hero of the story is God himself. Joseph, and his brothers and family, are part of the grand story that God himself wrote and continues to write.
- With this chapter in Joseph's life having suffering in it, questions may be raised about 'why does God allow suffering'? Exploring the fuller narrative of Joseph gives one part of the answer to God's redeeming purpose of suffering.

HEADLINES

The main idea of this discussion is to use the account of Genesis 37 to stir our faith in a God who is at work and involved in every area and chapter of our lives. Even when we can't seem to make sense of our current reality, God is moving and orchestrating things to be in line with his great and grand story of redemption.

PRAYER

Father God, thank you for bringing us here tonight. Help us seek truth in your Word and lessons you may be highlighting to us through this story. Open our minds and heart to you and help us grow as a community. Amen.

DISCUSSION

Read Genesis 37. Break it down into sections with different readers, to keep the energy and dynamic going:

v1-11. The Dreamer.

v12-28. The Betrayal.

v29-35. The cover up.

v36. The destination.

1. Put yourself in Joseph's sandals as he is being led to Egypt. What would be "unhelpful Christian advice" to him? [what do people with good intentions say to people suffering that is unhelpful?] What makes this advice unhelpful?
2. Think back to a time that you were victimized or betrayed. What were some of the questions of faith that you were asking? How did you answer them?
3. Only as we read the rest of the account of Joseph do we recognise God's hand at work in orchestrating something far bigger than Joseph or his brothers could have predicted. How have you experienced God using events in your life to prepare you for something later in life?
4. If you are currently in a season of suffering (being dropped into a pit, betrayed, or trapped in something), what of the account of Joseph is encouraging to you?
5. In Isaiah 53, Jesus was prophesied as being the suffering servant. How does Jesus' suffering bring us comfort in our suffering today?
6. Read 1 Peter 3:13-17. How can our times of trial and suffering be a witness to those around us?
7. [optional] How can we, as a life group, better stand with and support those who are in a season of suffering?

PRAY

There may be a need to minister to individuals in the group who are in a current season of suffering and have real, deep questions of faith.

Pray for faith to trust in God's orchestrating hand, especially when times are hard.

Pray that we would be a community that can love, support and encourage those who are in difficult or painful situations.