

Sept 29th – Living the Dream – Genesis 39:20-23; 40:1-23

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

What is the most severe trial or “prison” your family has undergone at this point in life? If it was a past trial, how can you see how God has worked through it? What about a current trial you are in? How have you seen God move in the middle of it?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Genesis 39:20-23. Pastor Jeff talked about two difference principles while Joseph was thrown into prison. What will I dwell on and what will I focus on? Joseph chose to dwell on God's presence instead of his problems. Joseph focused on God's favor towards him instead of life unfairness. How can you relate to this? In what ways do you focus on your problems instead of God's presence? How do you complain about life's unfairness instead of God's favor in your life?

Question 2: Read Genesis 39:22-23. Pastor Jeff talked about God continuing to bless even in “bad” circumstances. We see this in the life of Joseph in prison. We see God give Joseph a role of leadership while in prison (v. 22), and it even says the Lord gave Joseph success (v.23)!

How have you believed the lie of “God can't do any good out of this situation.” In what places in your life have you given into the belief that a certain circumstance is too “bad” for God to bless in? Are you in one of those stages right now? If so, how can you remind yourself of God's blessing or favor in any stage of life?

Question 3: Read Genesis 40:4-23. While Joseph was in prison, there were other officers of Pharoah also thrown in the prison. God allows Joseph to be used to interpret the dreams these men had. Notice that what Joseph asks for, doesn't happen immediatly. He gets used and forgotten. He doesn't sit and sulk but serves. He doesn't sit and worry but waits on God's timing. How can you relate to either of those things? Have you ever sat and just felt sorry for yourself instead of seeking ways to be used by God during “prison?” Do you become anxious and worrisome when life doesn't go the way you want? How does the story of Joseph remind of a different way God wants you to respond?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?