

Oct 20th – Living the Dream – Genesis 42:1-38

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

Can you relate to Pastor Jeff's story of his trip to the dentist? 3 different people asked him "how are you today?" Jeff had a different response to every person. One person he told he was good, the next person he said he was fine. The dentist he told he was in pain! 3 different answers for all those different people! Have you done this before? Why do we do this?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Genesis 42:1-4, 36. We see in this story that Jacob, Joseph's father, is starting to make decisions out of fear. In verse 1, fear immobilizes people in making decisions. Jacob and the sons were "looking at each other" when they knew there was a famine? How has fear paralyzed you when it comes to making decisions? The brothers "feet were standing still." Verse 4, Jacob only sent certain sons because he was afraid that if he sent all of them, they would all be hurt – specifically Benjamin. How do you try to control certain situations God has not given you control over? Verse 36, Jacob believes all things are working against him! His perspective is not correct and is not thinking properly about his life. How has fear caused you to think, "everything is against me!"

Question 2: Read Genesis 42:21, 28, 37. We also see in this story the reflection question of, am I living in guilt? The brothers have a guilty conscience about the past things they had committed against Joseph. Their minds are reminded of the secret they have tried to keep from almost 20 years! How have your past sins you have tried to cover up come back to your mind over and over? How do you believe God wants to you to deal with it? Read verse 28 and see how guilt affects your heart! How can you relate to this? Read 37, how does guilt affect your actions?

Question 3: Read Genesis 42: 7-9, 25. This story has an incredible story of forgiveness. Joseph at the end of this story shows forgiveness to his brothers. Am I living a life centered around forgiveness? How do you seek revenge instead of reconciliation? How do you look for God's sovereignty of a situation instead of looking for

your way to control the situation? How do you actively show mercy and grace to people who don't deserve it?
In verse 25, Joseph gives his brothers food, money and provision!

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?