

Grand Avenue Baptist Church WED Night Small Group

Discussion Questions

August 22, 2018

Read Genesis 37:11.

1. The reason for Joseph's brothers' jealousy was God's Word to him.
 - a. Do you ever notice in your own heart or in the heart of other people, a jealousy over blessings?
 - b. How can we guard ourselves against resenting God or others because of the blessings in their lives?
 - c. Think about personal satisfaction and contentment and how this changes our attitudes.

Read Genesis 37:18-36

2. How terrible is it that Joseph's own brothers sell him as a slave?
 - a. Is there any worse betrayal that could happen than this?
 - b. How would we respond in this situation?

Look at Genesis 39:4-18.

1. What does Joseph teach us about how to respond to temptation?
 - a. What does his reasoning for not giving in tell us about our motives for not giving in to sin?
2. Later when Joseph flees the temptation he gives us a visual picture of fleeing youthful lusts. What are some ways we can run away from temptation in our lives?
3. As a result of Joseph fleeing temptation he is thrown into prison.
 - a. Have you ever done what is right and still ended up in trouble?
 - b. How do you get through those times in life?

Genesis 39:23-40:1-4 tell us that Joseph continued to be faithful to the Lord and God continued to be with him in spite of all that had happened to him.

1. How can we live like Joseph so that no matter what we experience people can see God at work in our lives?
2. Have you ever seen God at work in someone's life even though they were going through a hard time?

Genesis 40:23 tells us that the chief cupbearer forgot Joseph

1. Have you ever helped someone only to see them forget you in your time of need?
 - a. What is the temptation we have when this happens?
 - b. What is the right response?
 - c. How can we be sure to not forget what God does through other people?

Look at Genesis 41:46

1. Joseph had spent almost half of his life in prison or as a slave. Yet God is with him through each of the trials he faced. How does his endurance teach us to respond to our own sufferings? Have you ever considered the length of time God may ask you to endure suffering?

Look at Genesis 41:51-52

1. What does Joseph teach us about moving forward with our lives in the face of terrible circumstances? Compare what we read here to Romans 5:3-5.
2. How does he help us remain focused on what truly matters?
3. Have you ever considered that this world is in many ways our land of affliction when compared to heaven? How does Joseph illustrate for us the teaching of Jesus to not lay up for ourselves treasures here on earth?

Look at Genesis 47:20-26

1. Have you ever considered that the source of Egypt's great power came as a result of Joseph's ability to buy up the land from the people living there? Does this shed more light on the word of God to Pharaoh when God says that He has "raised Pharaoh up?" It was God's actions that had given Egypt their great power.
2. With this in mind, how does Joseph teach us to bless the land and community in which we live? How can this help us do a better job at work?

Look at Genesis 50:15-21

1. These verses teach us about how Joseph viewed the world. How does this view of the world around us affect the way we treat others?
2. How does this affect the way we offer forgiveness or even look at problems in our lives?
3. Do you think knowing that God is working through everything helps you not become bitter over the horrible things people do?

Look at Genesis 50:25

1. How does Joseph's request show his faith?
2. How does his hope in a future salvation relate to the hope that we have?

When you think about the way that Joseph responded to the things that happened in his life, what can you learn about your own situation?

What is the most interesting aspect of Joseph's life to you?