

Meeting Joseph: favorite, dreamer, slave

Facing false accusations

Dream Interpreter

A unique family reunion...God works all things out for good

Discussion questions:

1. From a human standpoint (the Lower Story), Joseph was in the worst place: abandoned by family, sold into slavery, cast into prison (Genesis 39:20-23; The Story, pp. 29-32). From a divine perspective (Upper Story), he was in the best place. How do you see God working in Joseph and showing blessing, even in the pain of these moments of his life?
2. In the darkest times of Joseph's life we read that "the Lord was with Joseph". How have you experienced the Lord being with you in the hard times of life? What are some of the signs that God is with us, even in the dark places?
3. Joseph waited two years in prison for someone to remember him and send help. Tell about a time you waited for months or years on an answer from the Lord. How did you make it through this long season of waiting?
4. God has an amazing ability to bring good out of life's bad situations. Tell about a time when something hard and painful happened in your Lower Story, but later you saw God accomplish something wonderful in the Upper Story of his will.
5. At the end of chapter 3 of The Story, Joseph is reunited with his brothers twenty-two years after they sold him off as a slave. What strikes you about Joseph's attitude toward his brothers and the way he treats them? What does this teach us about the condition of his heart and the depth of his faith?
6. Joseph could have retaliated and gotten revenge on his brothers for all the wrong they had done to him. Instead, he provided for them and extended forgiveness. What makes it hard to forgive people who have intentionally wronged us? What can we do to forgive, even when it is difficult?

7. Charles Colson could say, “If I had not been caught and ended up in prison, I would never have become the man I am today.” Joseph could say, “If my brothers had not turned on me, if Potiphar’s wife had not falsely accused me, I would have never ended up meeting Pharaoh’s servants in prison. I might have never become the king’s right-hand man.” Describe how your life would be different if you had never faced a specific time of challenge and struggle. Finish this statement: If I had not _____, I would never have _____.
8. Romans 8:28 tells us, “In all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” What is one situation in your life where you need to embrace and experience this truth?

Homework: Forgiveness is one of life’s hardest actions. When someone has really hurt us, it is extremely difficult to forgive. During the next week read Genesis 50:15-21, Matthew 6:9-15, and Matthew 18:21-35. Pray for the courage and strength you need to forgive those who have wronged you. Meditate on Romans 5:8 and ask god to help you understand the depth of his grace so that you can extend that grace to others.

For next week, read Chapter 4 of The Story (Exodus 1-7, 10-17).