

## Small Group Questions

July 21, 2024

Living the Dream (Joseph): "Understanding the Detours"

This series will look at the life of Joseph in the book of Genesis. Fourteen chapters are dedicated to his journey with God and ultimate understanding of God's purpose for him, even in the hard circumstances he faced. This series will seek to help people understand how to follow God when we don't have all the answers or when we face circumstances that seem to take us backward, not forward. The goal of this series will be to increase the level of trust and adherence to the ways of God no matter where we find ourselves currently. God's providence is His ability to positively intervene in our broken world to bring about His good purposes. May we walk confidently and obediently with God even when we do not see the outcome.

(Questions to get everyone to participate)

1. What is the longest road trip you've ever been on? Were there any travelling hiccups along the way? (Traffic accidents, construction detours, flat tire, etc.)
2. Are you more of a recluse/homebody or social butterfly/love to go out?

(Questions based on the primary texts)

Read Genesis 37:12-36.

1. Why do you suppose Reuben was quick to protect Joseph?
2. Other than Gen. 42:21 that says Joseph pleaded for his life, we don't know how Joseph responded while being thrown into the pit, or sold off to the Midianites. What thoughts do you suppose were running through his head?
3. Perhaps something like this is a part of your story, where family has turned their back on you, harmed or abused you, or wanted nothing to do with you. What was that coping process like? What kind of "if-only" questions did you ponder? How did you "make it out alive?"
4. Read Mark 14:27-51. Even though they abandon him as he predicted, name 3 things Jesus did involving the people closest in his life. (Hint: vs 33, 34, & 35).
5. What was Jesus' prayer? How difficult is that prayer for you?
6. In moments of hurt and distress, what steps can you take, similar to Jesus?
7. It wasn't until decades later that Joseph is able to say the popular verse that what was meant for evil, God meant for good. Throughout the course of his life he learned to surrender his pain, trusting that God's process is better. What pain do you need to surrender to God today, so that he can turn it and use it for good?
8. How can your small group come alongside you in this journey?