

TAKEAWAY



Joseph and the Triumph of Grace: Part 2

Genesis 37:12-36

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- To reflect on what it means that God is sovereign over our lives
- To share ways we have seen God turn bad situations around
- To discuss ways we can bring God's presence into dark situations

INTRODUCTION

Joseph's life is one of huge ups and downs, family fallouts, great faith and forgiveness. A common theme through it is the sovereignty and providence of God. This week we spend time exploring this theme to help us understand what this means and discuss bringing his presence in challenging and dark circumstances.

SHARE

Have you experienced a difficult time that you can look back on and see God turned it around for good?

In your own words, what do you think the sovereignty and providence of God means?
What makes it so difficult to trust in God's sovereignty, provision and care?

Are you going through a situation right now that it's hard to make any sense of?

When Joseph is going through challenging times, in the moment, it's hard to think of anything that could make sense of it – but God was with him, and God is with us through everything.
How have you experienced God's presence in situations where outwardly it would appear like he was far off?

READ

Genesis 37:12-36 & James 1:12-17

DISCUSS

What do we learn from James 1:12-17 about the nature, source and consequences of sin?

What's your opinion on the way Joseph had presented his dreams to his family?

How does the section of the Joseph story covered this week make you feel?

The whole Joseph story is a story of God's sovereignty. Is God's sovereignty something you've given much thought to in the past? How do you understand the concept? Has your understanding changed at all over time and with experience?

Ian contrasted the idea of "control" with sovereignty, how does the story of Joseph demonstrate this difference? What is the difference between God being "in control" vs God being "sovereign". Do you find this distinction helpful? Confusing? Do you see it differently?

Sometimes nothing helpful can be said except "God is here". Discuss ways we can be more present to people who are suffering. What makes it difficult?

PRAY

- Read Psalm 139:7-12 together and let it guide you into prayer and thanksgiving
- Pray for anyone in the group who is going through difficulties that are hard to understand, pray that they will meet God in those moments and that he would work things together for good.

TRY OUT

- It can be a very lonely place navigating catastrophic changes in your life, people can be tempted to avoid you because they don't know what to say. Is there anyone you can think of who is suffering, that you can intentionally reach out to and check up on?
- As we make our way through Genesis, looking at the life of Joseph, consider how he gives us a picture of Jesus. In what ways is Joseph like Jesus in this chapter? In which ways is he different?