

## Small Group Questions

September 8, 2019

Life 101

Message: "Intro to Set Backs"

This four week series will trace the life of Joseph in the book of Genesis. We often believe that learning happens in a setting like a classroom but just as much, or more, of what we learn happens in real life. Without a Bible to reference, Joseph stayed true to God through difficult circumstances and played a vital role in Gods unfolding purpose to build and save a nation through him.

Our faith can run "hot" or "cold" depending on our current circumstance(s). Joseph teaches us to think deeper and trust regardless of our present situation. Each life has a God given purpose that we discover as we faithfully journey with God through the good, the bad and everything in between. Constant themes in the Bible are: God's love, the invitation to trust God and His work to redeem what is broken/lost. The hope of this series is to enlarge our faith to endure the hard times and trust God for the bigger purpose that we don't always see in the moment.

Thank you once again for you service to God by loving the people in your group!

(Questions to get everyone to participate)

1. When, if ever, did you receive a bad report in school? What for? By whom?
2. When you were growing up, how did you get along with your siblings? Who was the baby of the family? How was that person treated?

(Questions based on the primary texts)

Read Genesis 37:1-28.

3. Based on the text, how would you describe Joseph to someone who had never met him? Why do you think Joseph acts the way that he does?
4. Why do you think God gives Joseph these dreams at this time? Do such dreams point to God's control or human success? Why?
5. What motives are behind the brothers' extreme form of revenge against Joseph?

Read Genesis 39:1-4.

6. What do you make of Joseph's prospects after :1? At the end of :4? What can you imagine was Joseph's mannerisms in :1-4 (how do you see him at his job)?
7. Why are the words of :2a, "The LORD was with Joseph..." a surprising commentary here? What implications does this have for seasons of our own set backs
8. Where are you battling with envy/jealousy? How would you like to see that change? How can the group help you?