

WORD OF GOD:

Have a group member read Genesis 37 aloud.

What in this text stands out to you?

WORSHIP OF GOD:

Where is God in this story?

Joseph is a dreamer, and God reveals the future to him through his dreams. Does God still work like this? Why or why not?

COMMUNITY OF GOD:

Why do you think Israel loved Joseph more? Is this good?

What is Joseph's role in this story? Is he the innocent party?

What of his brothers? Discuss Reuben, Judah, and the rest of the brothers. Are any of them a hero in this story?

MISSION OF GOD:

Do you think there is any importance in the fact that it was 'Ishmaelites coming from Gilead' that stirred Judah towards selling Joseph into slavery?

What does the move of Joseph to Egypt prepare us for in terms of the mission of God?



WORD OF GOD:

Have a group member read Genesis 38 aloud.

What in this text stands out to you?

WORSHIP OF GOD:

This passage starts with 'It happened at that time...' Do you think this just happened at that time, or does the timing of this, right on the heels of chapter 37 have any significance? (hint: sin as a slippery slope)

What do you think verse 26 really means?

COMMUNITY OF GOD:

God seems to be pretty active in punishing Judah's sons for their wickedness. Does God still do this?

Is there anything to be drawn out from this passage concerning the morality of prostitution?

Does anything strike you about the last four verses of this chapter? Could the birth order matter?

MISSION OF GOD:

What does this story have to do with anything else in the Bible? (hint: Matthew 1:3)



WORD OF GOD:

Have a group member read Genesis 39 aloud.

What in this text stands out to you?

WORSHIP OF GOD:

Verse 2 says "The LORD was with Joseph..." Talk about the significance of that phrase.

This same phrase comes again in verse 21. How do we reconcile this phrase with how poorly things are going for Joseph?

COMMUNITY OF GOD:

What does this story teach us about the way sin will beckon to us repeatedly?

What does Joseph's response to Potiphar's wife's advances teach us about what to do when we are tempted with sin?

MISSION OF GOD:

How would you assess Joseph's work ethic?

How do you see your work under unfavorable circumstances?

Read Colossians 3:23-25. How does this link to Joseph's story?



WORD OF GOD:

Have a group member read Genesis 40 aloud.

What in this text stands out to you?

WORSHIP OF GOD:

In verse 8, what do you think is the most important statement that Joseph makes?

COMMUNITY OF GOD:

What can we learn about how to care for our unbelieving neighbors from how Joseph cares for the cupbearer and baker?

How do we prepare ourselves to be let down by people, as Joseph inevitably was, when he was forgotten?

MISSION OF GOD:

What does the trust that the captain of the guard has for Joseph teach us about mission?



WORD OF GOD:

Have a group member read Genesis 41 aloud.

What in this text stands out to you?

WORSHIP OF GOD:

Do you think God speaks to believers in dreams? What about non-believers? Is this text prescriptive or descriptive?

What does verse 16 teach us about Joseph's humility?

COMMUNITY OF GOD:

What does this text teach us about wisdom, and how one should use wisdom in dealings in the world?

What significance do you think Joseph's son's names have?

MISSION OF GOD:

Read Jeremiah 29:4-7. What does this passage, and Joseph's story, teach us about how we should live, work, and play in our communities?



WORD OF GOD:

Have a group member read Genesis 42-43 aloud (THIS IS A LOT!).

What in this text stands out to you?

WORSHIP OF GOD:

Why do you think Joseph tests his brothers?

What do you think of Reuben's response in verse 42:22?

COMMUNITY OF GOD:

What irony is found in 42:11?

Do you get any sense that Joseph's brothers are repentant for what they did to Joseph?

MISSION OF GOD:

Do you think God's purpose for sending Joseph to Egypt was to save the Egyptians or to save his brothers?

On that note, do you think it was God who sent Joseph to Egypt?

