

In the Beginning...

An Exploration of Genesis

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Week 5 May 12, 2024

“Joseph and His Brothers”

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for preserving this ancient story that is so relevant for us today. Father, help us to see that our current circumstances are not our entire story, that they are only part of the story. Lord, we really want to get this right, so would you teach us how to respond like Joseph, instead of just reacting to our circumstances? We pray this in the matchless and powerful name of Jesus. Amen.

SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

Genesis 50:18-20 (NIV)

¹⁸His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said.

¹⁹But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

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INTRODUCTION

There is more to your circumstances than meets the eye. Your current circumstances are a chapter. They are not the full story. While we don't always choose our circumstances, we do have the ability to choose our responses. But the response that has the potential to reverse the natural course of things isn't natural at all.

Never underestimate the power of a measured response. We have no idea what hangs in the balance of our decision to respond rather than react to events we did not choose. You have the power to respond rather than react. Use it. Our responses can make us better and the people around you will be better too.

QUESTIONS

1. Where have you felt the most pressure during this season? Financially? Relationally? Spiritually? Something else?
2. Is it difficult to imagine the events of your life as part of a bigger story?
3. Did you grow up assuming if God was with you, things would go well for you? Or something similar?
4. Read Genesis 50:18-20 (on page 1).
 - What stands out to you about this passage?
 - Given all that Joseph had been through, how could he respond like that?
5. Where are you reacting as expected rather than responding in a way that opens the door for an unexpected outcome?

FINAL APPLICATION

What would someone in your circumstance do if they were confident that God was with them?