

The Story

Joseph

Sherwood Oaks Christian Church

Week of October 19, 2008

Read Chapter 7 of “The Story” or check out Genesis chapters 37, 39-45 (*you have permission to skim if you’re in a hurry*).

Joseph’s life is a study in HUGE ups and downs. Favored son. Hated brother. Slave. Valued manager. Prisoner. Pharaoh’s right-hand man.

1. Grab a sheet of paper and draw a timeline of Joseph’s life (or mentally do so), with the line going up for the high points, and going down for the low points. **Does it look bumpy? How does it compare with YOUR life’s timeline?**
2. Joseph is human, with strengths and weaknesses. **What do you see as his strengths? His weaknesses?**
3. **Which of Joseph’s difficulties did he contribute to (if any), and which were completely brought upon him by external forces?**
4. **When we consider all of Joseph’s life, it appears that everything happened for a reason. Do you buy that? If so, what’s the “reason” or “reasonS.”**
5. **In what ways have you seen God work through the most bleak and hopeless situations to cause a greater good?**

Note: at this point, your group may be engaging in good heated discussion about whether things happen for a reason or they just happen and God can use those events to bring good. Feel free to have a nice discussion, but don’t get too sidetracked trying to convince someone to agree with you any more than you want to agree with them!

6. **Why can God be trusted at all times?**
7. BONUS for extra credit:
A lot of what happens in Joseph’s life is a result of his dreams and his ability to interpret them. Do you feel you have any gifts (supernatural or not) that God can use to impact your world?