



DISCUSSION GUIDE

THIS WEEK: *The Character Building Stage of Faith [Genesis 39]*

GETTING STARTED

What is one thing you are thankful for this week and what is one thing we can pray for you this week?

Remind each other of our simple expectations for meeting together

As you take a look in the rear-view mirror of how your life has unfolded. What is one thing you look back on and say, "I used to think that was a really big deal, insurmountable problem, or temptation, but now I see how God was using that to test my character?"

QUICK REACTIONS

- How would you summarize/paraphrase the message in your own words?
- What point/idea resonated most with you? Why?
- Did you disagree with something said, or what do you think should have been added or expanded on?

QUESTIONS FROM THE MESSAGE

Dave made the point that "God's dreams/plans often have more to do with what they make of us, than where they take us".

1. In what ways does this stand out in the story of Joseph?
2. In what ways has that been a struggle for you?
3. If we are honest with ourselves, the character-building stage of faith may be the one we have the most difficulty with. Why is that? (e.g. it's painful, you don't see the results quickly etc....)
4. God often tests (or allows) tests of character in our life through our temptations and our problems... In what ways can we be more "welcoming" to character building in our life? In what ways can we resist it?

EXPLORE THE PASSAGE [Genesis 39:1-23]

Who were the main people in these events, and what kind of people were they? (39)

What did Potiphar observe about Joseph, and what did he do as a result? (39:2-6)

What did Potiphar's wife ask Joseph to do, and what was his response? (39:7-12)

How did Potiphar's wife react when Joseph refused her? (39:13-18)

How did Potiphar respond to his wife's story? (39:19-20)

What happened to Joseph in prison? (39:21-23)

QUESTIONS THAT HELP US UNDERSTAND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TEXT

How do you generally respond when you do “the right thing”, but reap none of the reward?

Why is it difficult to trust God when our tests of character do not seem to be rewarded?

How did Joseph make the most of the bad situations in which he found himself?

What value is there in resisting temptations when it may be a lot easier just to give in?

How should you respond the next time someone mistreats you?

How ought the story of Joseph shape how we look at our temptations and problems? How can redefining our problems/temptations as God deepening and developing our character for His purposes give us new hope?

APPLY THE PASSAGE

What do we learn about God and about ourselves in this passage?

What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about, as a result of engaging with this passage?

How can we pray for each other?