

the

GENESIS

EXPERIENCE

Session 12/Genesis 41

Group Ice Breaker: What has changed the most in your life the past two years?

Read Genesis 41

Discussion

1. God is interested in redeeming all people and He uses individuals whether they know Him or not. How do you see God using each person in this chapter of Joseph's life:
 - God using Joseph and Pharaoh to influence the cupbearer.
 - God using Joseph and the cupbearer to influence Pharaoh.
 - God using the cupbearer and Pharaoh to influence Joseph.
 - What does this reveal about God?
2. Read Genesis 40:12-15 and 41:15-16. Compare Joseph's response to his situation in these verses. How has he changed in his two years of imprisonment?
3. At this point it seems like Joseph's life is "on hold," but God is obviously still at work. In what ways does this shape your perspective when facing similar challenges?
4. How does seeing the successes and failures of Joseph (and other Biblical characters) give you hope or encourage someone else in their circumstances?
5. Where does Joseph's story (so far) mirror the Gospel story of Jesus?

Inductive Study Questions

1. What might Pharaoh have been feeling at this point?
2. What was God doing in Pharaoh?
3. What does God want to do in you?

Prayer Exercise

Form groups of 2 or 3.

Have one person pray aloud 2 Corinthians 1:3-4:

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God"

Each person, if comfortable doing so – voice a difficult circumstance you're in the midst of. Ask God for peace in the knowledge of His sovereignty (His complete control of the situation) and the comfort of His love. Ask God to help you to understand His purposes in the midst of your circumstance.

Finish with someone different than before praying aloud:

"Thank You Lord that You are my refuge and my strength in hard times and an ever present helper in times of trouble. Help me to cling to You and this truth from the Bible, that You keep bringing to my mind. I know that You are the only, all-powerful God and that there is nothing that is too difficult in my life for You to deal with – nor is there any obstacle in my path that is so insurmountable that I cannot cross – knowing that You are by my side.

Give me I pray Your strength to face today's hard and troubled times with the confidence of knowing that Your strength is made perfect in my weakness. Thank you that my strength comes from You and that Your grace is sufficient for all the tasks and duties that will cross my daily path – not only for today but for the rest of my journey through life. Thank you Father that Your grace is sufficient – help me to meditate on this truth every day,

Amen"