

Small Group Leaders' Guide | Sermon Questions, Jan. 31st 2016

The Gospel in Relationships | Joseph and His Brothers (Genesis 45:1-18)

Walking through the long journey of Joseph's life Rich highlighted three impactful truths from his experiences in "the pit":

- There is pain in the pit – The pain from his brothers betrayal was real
- God is present in the pit – God was with him through *all* his precarious situations
- There is purpose in the pit – God worked through his reality to accomplish a greater story

1. Rich described the significance of Jacob giving Joseph a coat with "large hems" (v 37:3). Do you resonate with the reality of one sibling being favored over another?
2. Rich described the importance of Joseph to Pharaoh. This is a great example of how God can work through anyone, believer or not, to accomplish his purposes. How was Joseph's view of God expanded over time?
3. Joseph is extremely emotional and vulnerable with his brothers (v 45:1-18), what does this reveal about the pain he has experienced?
4. Joseph finds himself "in the pit" a lot in his life, yet maintains his faith in God. However, as Rich pointed out, the pain is real for him. How can he possibly be faithful to God but also experience so much pain?
5. God, the architect of destiny, was always working behind the scenes even when things looked bleak for Joseph. Have you ever felt like Joseph? How has God reminded you he is always near?
6. What does "the pit" represent in your life currently?
7. What is your standing with your own siblings? Is there anything that you can forgive them for? Something that they can forgive you for?
8. Read Ps 40:1-3ff. How does this passage speak to Joseph's life? Your life?
9. So why does Joseph forgive (v 45:8a)? How does this "bottom line" apply to our ministry of reconciliation?
10. How might Joseph's model, if faithfully applied, impact our church?