



Harvester Groups

JOSEPH: *Staying Faithful in the Unexpected* | Group Questions for Genesis 37

Prepare: Read Genesis 37 several times before your group meeting. Write down any questions or observations you want to discuss.

Discuss*

- Imagine yourself as one of the other brothers of Joseph. Given what you know from these verses, how would you have felt toward Joseph? toward your father?
- What might have motivated Joseph to bring a bad report to his father about his brothers?
- What did Jacob (Israel), Joseph's father, do that also could have intensified the rivalry?
 - What do you think this action meant to Joseph?
 - What do you think it meant to his brothers?
- How would you have reacted if you were one of the brothers hearing this dream?
- With such a bad environment at home, why would Joseph have reported these dreams—especially given that their interpretation was fairly obvious?
- If you were Joseph (and did not know what the outcome would be), would you have shared your dream with your brothers or father? Why or why not?
- Describe Jacob's reaction to the dream. Why do you think he reacted differently than the brothers?
- What does this passage teach us about the character of Joseph at this point?
- What thoughts and feelings about Joseph might have gone through the minds of the brothers as he arrived at the place where they were working?
- What is the effect of bitterness on our perspective on others and our ability to relate to others?
- What evidence is there that God is intervening on Joseph's behalf?
- What is the effect of the brothers' vengeful action against Joseph on their relationship with Reuben? With their father? With God?
- From the perspective of the brothers, how does this passage challenge you regarding bitterness or unresolved conflicts in your own relationships?
- What do you do when you think that God is guiding you one way and you come to a twist in the road that totally confuses you?

Apply

Take some time to reflect on areas in your family upbringing that still bring you pain today:

- Which of these areas require me simply to let go and forgive someone from my heart?
- Which of these areas do I need to take action on by doing something that can bridge the gap between me and a sibling or me and a parent?
- What action will I take toward healing these relationships?

Think through the unanswered prayers of your own life or the unanswered questions that you're bringing before God. Why do you think God makes you wait? What is he teaching you about yourself? What is he teaching you about your relationship with him?

*The last of all great human freedoms
is to choose one's response to any given set of circumstances. –Viktor Frankl*

*And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God,
to those who are called according to His purpose. Romans 8:28 (NASB)*

**Use these questions to guide your discussion. Don't feel like you have to go through all of them and make sure you take time to talk through any questions and observations from the group.*