The Story of Joseph

I. Sharing Question: What was the best costume you ever wore? Were you able to obscure your identity? How were you revealed?

II. Background: The story of Joseph and the relationship with his brothers builds to a climax in this reading. Joseph finally reveals himself to his brothers. He proclaims to them that the events of his life have all been in the hands of God and used to fulfill God’s purposes. Through Joseph, Jacob’s family is reunited and brought to live together in Egypt. Each of their lives has been preserved through the years of separation and famine.

III. Read Passage: Genesis 45:1-46:7

IV. Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think Joseph had everyone but his brothers leave his presence (45:1)? Who would have been surrounding Joseph? What do they represent?

2. Was Joseph successful in keeping the moment private (45:2)? Does that have any significance?

3. What is Joseph’s first question to his brothers (45:3)?

4. Why do you think Joseph’s brothers were terrified at Joseph’s self-revealing (45:3)?

5. What does Joseph tell his brothers? What reason does Joseph give for being in Egypt (45:7)?

6. What does Joseph say God did through him? For what purpose? (45:8)

See reverse for more questions
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IV. Discussion Questions (continued):
    7. What does Joseph ask his brothers to do? (45:9)

    8. What is the reaction of Pharaoh to Joseph’s brothers? What does Pharaoh offer Joseph’s brothers? (45:16-20)

    9. What kind of gifts does Joseph give his brothers? How does Joseph treat Benjamin? (45:22)

    10. What is Jacob’s response to news of Joseph (45:26)?

    11. How does Jacob receive assurance from God (46:3)?

    12. Where does God play in this story? Who speaks of God and how do they do so?

    13. What has God done through the life of Joseph? Through the life of Jacob?

V. Reflection Questions:

    1. How do you handle hurt? Think of a time someone hurt you. What was your reaction and response to that person when you first saw them after they’d hurt you?

    2. Have you given your hurt to God? What has God done with it?

    3. How have you seen God work through the events in your life?