

# SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

2/11/2018 · Week 5

Genesis 39-45 · Joseph

1. Genesis 37:29-36 & 45:8-15 are “bookends” of Joseph’s life. Read these passages together and then discuss what stands out to you most when you consider Joseph’s life as a whole. Contrast the situation of chapter 37 with one of chapter 45.
2. Joseph’s life is a story of extreme mountain tops and valleys. We first meet him as Jacob’s favorite son, then he is sold by his brothers into slavery. He becomes head of Potiphar’s household, then is thrown into prison. He becomes second to Pharaoh, then is reacquainted with the brothers who drove him away from home. What consistent character traits of Joseph’s are visible in the “highs and lows” of his life? What does his example teach us about our worship of God in every season of life?
3. Joseph’s older brothers were guilty of many things including envy, hatred, deceit, and adultery. Talk about Joseph’s life as an example of contrast. How does he model for us a godly response to sin’s temptation in 39:11-12? Connect this to 2 Timothy 2:22. How can you take an active rather than passive response to the temptations in your life?
4. Joseph waited to be released from prison for two whole years (41:1). In the matter of a day, Joseph went from living in a criminal’s pit to the throne room of Pharaoh. (41:14). Discuss a time in your life when you had to wait for God’s provision or a time when life suddenly took a different direction.
5. Look up 1 Peter 2:20. How does this verse relate to the story of Joseph? What does Joseph’s example in this regard teach you?
6. Throughout the story of Joseph, the author says, “the Lord was with Joseph” (39:2, 21, 23). Compare this to Christ’s final words in Matthew 28:18-20. Discuss the significance of knowing that the God of Joseph is the same God who is with Christ’s disciples. How does this realization change your daily life outlook?