

Joseph Part 1: Dreams

Start

You can do this session on your own or with other people, whichever you'd prefer. Try to find a place where you won't be disturbed. You could write down any thoughts you have during these sessions as a way of helping you keep track. If you want to read the passage online, just go to the 'Bible Gateway' website and type the passage in there.

<https://www.biblegateway.com>

Quiz

1. You can only get stronger in yourself as a person by facing challenges.
 - A. I agree
 - B. I disagree
 - C. Not sure
2. You can only find out what you're good at by listening to what other people say about you.
 - A. I agree
 - B. I disagree
 - C. I agree a bit and disagree a bit
3. If you've worked really hard and haven't achieved what you hoped you would, then your hard work didn't mean anything.
 - A. I agree, because all that matters is getting the result you wanted.
 - B. I disagree, because doing your best regardless of the result is what really matters.
 - C. Mostly disagree, but agree a bit because we need to make sure we work hard at the right things (i.e. working hard at being honest is more important than just knowing how to get what you want).

The point behind that was to get us thinking about our character in the Bible we're starting to look at, Joseph, who was one of Jacob's sons. God gave Joseph dreams and we'll look in this session at what they meant and how things worked out for Joseph.

Bible passages

There's quite a bit to cover this week, so some parts of the story will need to be summarised.

Read Genesis 37:1-11

How do Joseph's brothers react when he tells them his dreams?

How could Joseph have acted more wisely here?

Sometimes we might sense God telling us something and the way he speaks to us can be so personal that only God and us understand what is going on. It can help to write down what we feel God is telling us. We can do this in a journal. We can then go back to it and see what has happened since.

Read 37:12-36

How do you think Joseph felt when he was sold as a slave?

How do you think Reuben felt when he found out what had happened to Joseph?

Read Genesis 39:1-6 (finish at 'the food he ate.')

How is God still working through Joseph in spite of what's been happening?

What does this story teach us about God?

No matter what was happening in Joseph's life, God was still with him and guiding him whether things were good or bad. Jesus is always there for us and ready to guide us if we want him to.

Finishing up

Spend some time thinking about what this story means for you. Below are some ideas for prayer:

- Thank God that he loves us all the same.
- Ask God to help us to not show off and to not fall out with each other.
- Thank God that he is always with us, even when things are hard. Ask him to help you with anything you are finding difficult.

Other stuff you could do in the week

Have a look at the following Bible verses. There are short passages for each day of the week. You could jot down some thoughts in response to them.

'I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

Psalm 91:2

“For I am the Lord your God who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you.” Isaiah 41:13

Jesus’ words: “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

‘I can do all this through him who gives me strength.’ Philippians 4:13

‘We love because he (Jesus) first loved us.’ 1 John 4:19

‘The Lord is near to the broken hearted.’ Psalm 34:18

‘Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you.’ James 4:8