

Genesis: The Book That Started It All

Joseph (Part 1)

Group Guide | December 7

Open your group time with a few Advent questions (10 minutes)

Last week, we mentioned how Advent is a season of waiting, longing, and slowing down — but most of our lives feel rushed and pressured this time of year. Our lives can also feel chaotic and burdensome, full of “malice and envy, being hated and hating one another” (Tit. 3:3).

On Sunday, however, we lit the candle of **peace** which highlights the life of peace we find only in the Prince of Peace: Jesus.

- Where does life feel “chaotic” or “burdensome?”
- Where might “malice and envy” or even “hate” be reigning in your life right now?
- How does the peace wrought by Christ on the cross call you higher than these things?

As a group, seek the Lord in these things. Pray for God’s peace and pray for God’s Spirit to birth peaceful fruit within you (Gal. 5:22).

Read Genesis 37:12–28, Genesis 39:1–12, Genesis 40:1–8, 20–23 out loud together. Then, reflect on the text and sermon (40 minutes).

- “When you’re in a pit, it’s easy to forget.” That’s the line that Chad drew out for us from the story of Joseph’s life. List out all of the “pit” moments of Joseph’s life. How many do you count? How does this passage remind you that God’s purposes can continue even when human choices seem to derail everything?
- What qualities about Joseph’s life as he responded to “pit” after “pit” do you admire? What qualities do you think you most need the Holy Spirit’s help in emulating?
- Take a few moments to reflect on all of the “pit” moments in your own life. How many do you count? Share one of those moments with your group. How did you respond in the “pit” moment? Was it hard to trust God? To obey God like Joseph? Explain.
- In this message, Chad drew out four lessons from Joseph’s life that we can apply to our own. Here’s the first: Remember that God gives us His promises before He gives us His plan. When you think about your “pit” moments, how certain would you rate your feelings around God’s promises? Do you feel resolved? Or do they feel wobbly? Explain.
- Another lesson Chad mentioned is that we are to “Remember that you are defined by God’s promises, not by your circumstances.” As Christians, what are the promises of God you need to hold onto/let define you in the pit?

- The whole time that Joseph was in the pit, God had a purpose for it. That was lesson number three. Think of the “pit” moment you shared earlier. As you look back on that time, do you see any purpose in it? How did God use that moment to refine you?
- For the final lesson, Chad made it clear that we need to remember that the Lord is with us, even when it doesn’t seem like it. Re-look through Genesis 39. How many times do you see the phrase, “The Lord was with Joseph?” How does it feel to know that the Lord is with you even in your hardest moments? How does this knowledge strengthen your faith?

Break out into groups of 3-4 for prayer (10 minutes).

Have each person look below at the list of lessons from Joseph’s life. Have each person choose one or two items they feel like they most need reminding of in this season. Then, take turns praying over one another for the lesson that they specify they are needing most.

1. Pray that they’d remember that God gives us His promises before He gives us His plan.
2. Pray that they’d remember that we’re defined by God’s promises, not by our circumstances.
3. Pray that they’d remember that they have a purpose - even in the pit.
4. Pray that they’d remember that God is WITH them in their waiting.

When you’re finished, return as a whole group and close with prayer.