

MAIN POINT

Joseph's life is a reminder that God is always with His people and always gives us hope.

INTRODUCTION

Describe a time when God worked in your life through difficult circumstances. What was that experience like at the time? How did you respond to what God was doing?

How did God show Himself faithful to you? How difficult did you find it to trust that God was with you during that time? What made this difficult?

Difficult situations often become teachable moments that God uses to prepare us for harder situations to come. This is seen throughout Joseph's life. No matter what Joseph faced, God was with him. God was with Joseph in the pit, when he was sold into slavery, when he was falsely accused, when he was thrown into prison, when he was forgotten in prison, and every moment in between. Joseph's life is a reminder to all of God's people that He is with us no matter what and when He is with us there is always hope.

DISCUSSION

> READ GENESIS 37:3-5, 23-28; 39:1-23; 40:9-15; 41:9-13, 25-40; 45:4-8; 50:15-21.

What caused Joseph's brothers to become embittered towards him? Were any of these things really Joseph's fault?

What might Joseph have been thinking or praying as he was betrayed by his brothers and carried off as a slave, separated from his father? What would you have been thinking?

How would being aware of God's presence have made a difference in Joseph's life? How would always being aware of God's presence make a difference in your life?

How do you think Joseph's continual awareness that God was with him enabled him to resist temptation with Potiphar's wife and to remain hopeful after he was falsely accused by her?

What might Joseph have been thinking after two years without a change in his difficult circumstances?

What did the cupbearer's restored memory mean for Joseph? What about for Pharaoh? What does it mean for us in regards to God's faithfulness?

How do the verses from Genesis 50 encourage or challenge you in regards to facing difficulty in life with God by your side?

What in your life might God be using for good, even if others mean it for evil?

APPLICATION

Where do you need to be reminded that God is with you this week? How might reflecting back over the story of Joseph encourage you in that on a daily basis? How is God calling you to respond to Him based on this week's study?