

JOSEPH

An Ordinary Radical

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Week 3: The Purpose of Life

Genesis 39:1-23 Notes and Personal Reflections

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

The Big Idea:

The purpose of life is to experience ALL of life – no matter what happens as a result of living in a sin-scarred, fallen world – with God...and to bring God into the lives of others who desperately need Him.

SMALL GROUP Q'S

Personal Life:

1. At this point in our story, Joseph is on a major roller-coaster ride in life. He's daddy's favorite...then he's a slave. He gets promoted...then falsely accused and thrown into prison. In modern life, who do you look to for inspiration as a person who has overcome a lot of adversity?

Ponderings:

2. As admirable as Joseph may be, why is the story we are reading not ultimately about Joseph, but about God? Explain...
3. The story of Joseph seems so unfair. It seems like Joseph deserves better treatment based on how he lived his life. Why would God include a story like this for our benefit in the Bible?
4. The story repeatedly says that "The Lord was with Joseph" at every point along the journey. Jesus comes along 2000 years later and His name is literally "God With Us." How do we actually have it BETTER now than Joseph had it in terms of God being "with us?"
5. There is a movement among some Christians today that claims that God wants His children to be "healthy, wealthy and prosperous" in this life.
 - Have you ever heard this message being promoted by fellow believers?
 - Why do you think so many American Christians believe such a message when the lives of people like Joseph, Job, Ruth, Daniel, Paul and even Jesus seem to reflect otherwise?
6. A friend who is exploring the claims of Christ asks you why God "allows" some blatantly evil people to prosper in this world while other comparatively innocent people suffer greatly. How do you respond?

Promptings:

7. Are you currently aware of someone who is suffering through something similar to a trial you yourself have endured? Are you willing to pro-actively reach out to them this week as a conduit of God's grace and encouragement? Explain...