

# LIFEGROUPS

## JOSEPH

*Today's study requires a lot of reading, you may wish to split each passage looking at the life of Joseph, so that each life lifegroup member skim-reads a section each, come back together and sum up the gist, so to re-jog each other's memories on the life of Joseph.*

### Read Genesis 37 - A young Joseph

1. Why was there a sense of injustice in this passage?
2. How do the brothers deal with Joseph?
3. When it comes to familial ties, why is it easier to hate than to love? Its it wrong to have favourites within family members? Do you have a favourite? Were you ever the favourite?

### Read Genesis 39 - Joseph in Egypt

4. Why was there a sense of injustice in this passage?
5. How did Joseph deal with this episode?
6. How did God show favour to Joseph? How do you think Joseph's character changed during these times of injustice? (v21-23) If you were in jail for all those years, do you think you would respond in the same way? Would you be bitter, vindictive, and insecure?

### Read Genesis 40 - 45 - Joseph revealed

7. Looking at Genesis 41:16, what do we learn about Joseph?
8. How does Joseph deal with the past injustice? Why is this so?
9. How does one deal with injustice in the world? What can we do about it? What can God do about it?
10. Have you ever been treated unfairly? Have you ever experienced injustice? (When you were a child, and even more recently as a grown up? please share your experiences). Did you become bitter? How do we get over injustice and bitterness? (Perhaps you can spend some time praying for each other in whatever areas you have shared about)

### Leaders Notes

These notes are here as guidelines or commentary notes to help the leader. Let the Word of God lead you and your Lifegroup to HEAR God's prophetic message this week as you explore His Word together.

### A little context on the life of Joseph

Rachel was always Jacob's favourite wife and the sons she gave him: Joseph and Benjamin—were his favourite sons. Such favouritism was to have dire consequences, for when Joseph started to have rather self-aggrandising dreams, the other siblings reacted. Joseph's crime was not the dreams – which were prophecies after all – but his complete lack of tact. His brothers faked his death and the lad was taken into slavery in Egypt.

Its is a biblical principle that in order to become somebody, you have to be a nobody first. Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Elijah –all of them had to lose their identities in order to find them. Sometimes this meant going into the wilderness, sometimes it meant fleeing the family home. Joseph becomes a slave and then a prisoner, but through it he finds a deep and powerful relationship with God.

Ironically, the very ability that got him into trouble: the ability to interpret dreams—proves his salvation. He interprets the dream of Pharaoh and becomes an important figure in Egypt. His interpretation includes not only the meaning but also a suggestion of action. It also leads to the salvation of his family, who can call on the brother they thought lost, when they need to escape the famine.

Joseph's story echoes the story of Israel the nation. He has to be taken into exile; he was to struggle with God and with man; he was, finally, to be used as a source of blessing for many other nations and peoples. Joseph's story moves us from the stories of individuals - the patriarchs to the story of the nation, for after Joseph, the tribes of Israel move to Egypt and become a slave nation.

*[Taken from The Bible Book : Nick Page, Harper Collins. pages 47-48]*