

This Weeks Small Group and Personal Bible Study Guide

This Weeks Memory Verse: Romans 8:28

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

In Genesis chapters 37 through 50, we see the great story of how God kept His hand upon the life of His servant Joseph. Through many trials of life, Joseph received blessings from God. In the end, everything God had purposed in Joseph’s life was fulfilled by His power at work in Joseph’s life. In Genesis 50:20 Joseph says to his brothers, “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” In the same way, God uses even the bad things that happen to us to bring about good in the lives of others and to bring glory to His Holy name.

This weeks lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

1. What do you learn about God from this story of Joseph’s life? (Based up the daily reading from Genesis chapters 37-50)

We learn how God continues to be with Joseph and hold him up through many trials and He uses Joseph for His purpose. We see how God had a plan for Joseph in the beginning and He carried it out to its completion.

2. How would you have reacted to your brothers had you been Joseph, knowing the things they had done to him? (Review Genesis chapter 37)

I think it would have been very difficult to forgive his brothers for what they did to him. It would be really easy to become bitter and when given a chance, to take out revenge on them. At the same time, Joseph could have become bitter at God for not doing what He showed him. He could look at all the bad things happening and think God had abandoned him.

3. What character traits did God build into Joseph?

Joseph grew in Godly character and it is demonstrated in how he treats people, how he resisted sin, and ultimately how he forgave his brothers. The most important trait developed in Joseph was his desire to be obedient and please God.

4. In this lesson, we learn that what is important is what happens through me, not to me. God is with me always and He will bless and use me if I continue to love Him and remain in Him. God will work out His plan through my life experiences if I will simply abide in Him. How does this help you work through hurts, trials, losses, and struggles that come in your life?

This story reminds me that I cannot control what happens in my life but I can control my reaction to the circumstances. Even when things are bad, I know beyond a shadow of doubt that God can and will make good come from them. All I need to do is to love Him, follow Him, and remain in Him.

Here are a few great verses to read and meditate upon:

[Romans 8:28](#) And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

[James 1:2-4](#) Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

[2 Corinthians 2:3-5](#) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

[Deuteronomy 31:8](#) The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

[John 15:5](#) "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

5. Share how God has used what appeared to be a bad thing in your life to bring about His good purpose?

Small group leaders: Give anyone a chance to share their story. This is a testimony of God's power at work in our lives and is an act of worship.

Daily Reading Schedule: Story of Joseph's Life

Day 1: Genesis Chapters 37 & 39

Day 2: Genesis Chapters 40 & 41

Day 3: Genesis Chapters 42, 43, & 44

Day 4: Genesis Chapters 45, 46, & 47

Day 5: Genesis Chapters 48, 49, & 50